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PROCEEDINGS AT THE DINNER

GIVEN BY THE

CITIZENS OF BROOKLYN

AT THE MANSION HOUSE,

ON THE 5TH OF AUGUST, 1857,

TO THE

HON. HENRY C. MURPHY,

PREVIOUSLY TO

HIS DEPARTURE ON HIS MISSION AS MINISTER TO THE NETHERLANDS.



BROOKLYN :

I. VAN ANDEN, PRINTER, 39 AND 32 FULTON STREET.

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PRINTED FOR PRIVATE DISTRIBUTION.



## COMPLIMENTARY DINNER

TO THE

# HON. HENRY C. MURPHY.

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PREVIOUSLY to the departure of the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, on his mission to the Hague, a number of his fellow-citizens of Brooklyn decided to testify, by a public dinner, their appreciation of his character and qualifications for the high duties, to the fulfilment of which he had been called. They met to mingle congratulations on his receiving such a mark of the confidence and esteem of the Chief Magistrate of the Union; and on the advantages to the commerce and friendly relations of the country abroad, to result from his selection, with regrets at losing, even temporarily, a citizen whose absence would leave a blank in the circles of public and private life. His fellow citizens among whom his whole life had been spent, exhibited a universal desire to participate in the festival; and leading citizens of all parties united to honor the occasion.

The dinner was given at the Mansion House, and in every respect exceeded the anticipations of its promoters. A goodly company of the most distinguished citizens of Brooklyn assembled; all differences of opinion on political or other topics were merged for the time in the general sentiment in honor of intellectual capacity and moral worth. Spontaneous and genuine expressions of regard emanated from all quarters, and the proceedings at the dinner were characterized by good feeling and propriety, and passed off to the eminent satisfaction of all present.

## CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN

## THE COMMITTEE AND MR. MURPHY.

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BROOKLYN, July 15, 1857.

HON. HENRY C. MURPHY:

DEAR SIR—A large number of your fellow citizens, entertaining, in common with the community of which you have been from birth a resident, a high respect for your public and private character, and bound to you by the stronger ties of long personal friendship, are desirous of testifying their regard for you in some appropriate and public manner, prior to your departure on the honorable mission to which you have been called.

With this view the undersigned, who have been appointed a Committee for that purpose, respectfully and earnestly invite you to favor them with your company at a Dinner, to be given at such time as may be most convenient to you.

Very respectfully,

Your friends and fellow citizens.

N. E. MORSE,  
C. P. SMITH,  
JOHN GREENWOOD,  
E. W. FISKE,  
JOHN T. RUNCIE,  
DANIEL EMBURY,  
EDMUND DRIGGS,  
SAMUEL E. JOHNSON,  
WILLIAM HUNTER, JR.,  
WILLIAM M. HARRIS,  
WILLIAM WALL,

I. VAN ANDEN,  
HENRY A. KENT,  
T. G. BERGEN,  
JAMES HUMPHREY,  
DANIEL VAN VOORHIS,  
ABRAM B. BAYLIS,  
ROLLIN SANFORD,  
NICHOLAS WYCKOFF,  
JOHN W. MANLEY,  
BARNET JOHNSON,  
HECTOR MORRISON,  
CHARLES WILSON,

WILLIAM MARSHALL,  
S. L. HUSTED,  
J. CARSON BREVOORT,  
HENRY R. PIERSON,  
JOHN W. HUNTER,  
JOHN A. CROSS,  
WILLIAM H. PECK,  
JOHN H. PRENTICE,  
WILLIAM H. CARV,  
J. S. T. STRANAHAN,  
DANIEL CHAUNCEY.

BROOKLYN, July 20, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I have the honor of receiving, this day, your letter of the 15th inst., and beg, in reply, to return you my sincere acknowledgments for the kind manner in which you have been pleased to extend to me the invitation on behalf of my fellow-citizens whom you represent.

Although, under almost any other circumstances, I should be compelled to decline such a public testimonial, I do not feel at liberty to deny myself the pleasure of meeting those who have so strong a personal claim upon my regard, as the valued friends and fellow citizens who have made this call.

In the exercise of the privilege accorded me in your letter, I name the 5th of August as the time which will suit my engagements for the proposed entertainment.

With grateful sentiments towards those with whom you act, and with many thanks to you, gentlemen, for the acceptable manner in which you have made known their wishes,

I am yours truly,

HENRY C. MURPHY.

To the Hons. N. B. MORSE, C. P. SMITH,  
J. GREENWOOD and others, Committee.

## PROCEEDINGS.

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IN ACCORDANCE with the preceding invitation and acceptance, the complimentary dinner to Mr. MURPHY, prior to his departure for the Hague, in the honorable character of Minister from the United States of America to the Netherlands, was given at the Mansion House in Hicks street, Brooklyn, on the evening of the 5th day of August, 1857. The spacious dining room was appropriately decorated and brilliantly lighted; the tables were spread with all the luxuries of the season, and exhibited many triumphs of the cuisinary art. Bouquets and other floral ornaments were liberally distributed.

DANIEL EMBURY, Esq., presided, assisted by TEUNIS G. BERGEN, WILLIAM HUNTER, JR., SAMUEL E. JOHNSON, EDWARDS W. FISKE, WM. M. HARRIS, JOHN W. HUNTER, JOHN T. RUNCIE, I. VAN ANDEN, DANIEL VAN VOORHIS, ESQUIRES, as Vice Presidents.

The company, about two hundred in number, sat down to dinner at half-past seven o'clock. The guest of the occasion was seated on the right of the president, in a chair elegantly festooned with

flowers; next to him in order sat the Honorable FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor of the City of New York, the Honorable GULIAN C. VERPLANCK, the Rev. Dr. GEO. W. BETHUNE, the Honorable GEORGE WOOD; and on the left of the President sat the Rev. EVAN M. JOHNSON, the Honorable SAMUEL S. POWELL, Mayor of the City of Brooklyn, the Rev. Dr. JOHN KENNEDY, the Honorable Judges AMASA J. PARKER, and LUCIEN BIRDSEYE. Other distinguished gentlemen, among whom were the ex-Mayors of the City of Brooklyn, EDWARD COPELAND, SAMUEL SMITH, and CYRUS P. SMITH, Judges N. B. MORSE and JOHN A. LOTT, the Honorables JOHN KELLY, M. C., JOHN COCHRANE, M. C., GEORGE TAYLOR, M. C., AUG. SCHELL, Collector of the port of New York, JAMES HUMPHREY, Esq., &c., were present.

The Divine blessing on the repast was invoked by the Rev. EVAN M. JOHNSON, and after an elegant and sumptuous dinner had been disposed of, and the dessert served, the first regular toast was announced by the Chairman:

“The President of the United States,”

which was received with enthusiastic cheers.

JAMES HUMPHREY, Esq., read a letter of apology from the President of the United States, in response to an invitation to attend. (The letter, with the other correspondence, will be found annexed.)

“The Governor of the State of New York”

followed, and was also drunk with all due honors.

DANIEL EMBURY, Esq., the Chairman, in announcing the next toast, said:

GENTLEMEN:—

We assemble this evening to perform a very grateful duty—to testify our sincere regard for our friend and fellow-citizen, the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, who is about to leave our shores for a temporary residence in a foreign land. His claims to this tribute of our respect are manifold. His name is identified with all the prominent measures undertaken for the improvement of this rapidly growing city. He has filled ably many of the higher offices within her gift, and he has justified her choice by his untiring devotion to her interests. If we contemplate for a moment the personal qualifications and past career of our honorable guest, we shall see the peculiar propriety of the appointment he has received as Minister to the Netherlands. Imbued by his profession with a profound knowledge of the laws of this land, no less learned in the laws of nations, and, as a recent member of Congress, intimately acquainted with the domestic and foreign policy of our Government, versed in the language of the country to which he is accredited—well read in its literature and its history—by no means ignorant of those secret workings of the human heart, through the agency of which masses as well as individuals are moved, he may well be considered a fit representative of this great Republic at the Hague. It is appropriate, too, that such a representative should go forth from this ancient Dutch village of Breukelen, his native place, settled

by the old Hollanders and Walloons in their first visit to New Netherland, and the birth place of their first descendant. It is a remarkable fact, and one highly honorable to the city of Brooklyn, that two of its Mayors have made accessible to the English reader four of the rarest works relating to New Netherland. They were written in the Dutch language by eye-witnesses, and are replete with interesting information. To our guest, Mr. Murphy, we owe a translation of the voyages of that hardy old navigator, De Vries, who published his book at Hoorn, in the year 1655; and it has now become so rare, that a perfect copy of the original is worth several times its weight in gold. We owe to him, likewise, a translation of the "Representation from New Netherland," ascribed to Adrian Vander Donck, and of the "Broad Advice to the United Netherland Provinces," attributed to Cornelius Melyn. It is quite probable that his venerable Alma Mater, on the other side of the river, who had instructed him in the massive language of the noble Roman and the polished idiom of the ancient Greek saw, with a smile of approbation, one of her talented sons cultivating with assiduous care that vigorous, if not most euphonious of modern languages—the vernacular tongue of the Hollander. To the late General Jeremiah Johnson—a descendant and genuine type of the honest, brave and intelligent old Hollanders, who first settled Nieuw Amsterdam and the neighboring parts of Long Island—a man whom we all knew and all loved—for

"None knew him but to love him,  
None named him but to praise."



to him we are indebted for a translation of Vander Donck's "Description of New Netherland,"—a primitive work of inestimable value. In the gallery of our City Hall, among the portraits of the chief magistrates of our city, may be seen faithful likenesses of both these mayors—the one of venerable age, his manly features expressive of the overflowing benevolence of his heart—the other radiant with intellect and comparative youth. But my love for the dead, and my friendship for the living, are betraying me into prolixity. I will only add, that when our friend shall have departed from his native land, the City of Brooklyn will feel sensibly the absence of one of her most useful and distinguished citizens. I wish him God-speed, and I propose to you, gentlemen, this toast and sentiment:

"Our distinguished guest, the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, eminently fitted, by education, ability and experience in public affairs, for the high duties with which he is intrusted. He carries with him, upon his honorable mission to a foreign court, equally the merited confidence of the Government, and the affectionate regard of his fellow-citizens."

Mr. MURPHY, in rising to respond, was greeted with deafening peals of applause. In response to the sentiment, he spoke as follows, being frequently interrupted with manifestations of approval:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN—Most sincerely do I acknowledge your kindness. Conscious, as I am, that it is far beyond my merits, words fail me to express my sense of the obligation which you have imposed. To have the good wishes of my

friends and neighbors—of those with whom I have always lived; and to whom, if a merciful Providence spares me, I expect to return to spend the remnant of my life—is my great ambition. For the cordial manner in which you have met me on this occasion, I offer you the homage of a heart deeply touched by your generous sympathy.

Let me add the expression of the gratification which I experience in meeting the citizens of Brooklyn upon one common platform of social brotherhood, when political differences are forgotten, and personal rivalries unknown. With many of you I have myself had warm political contests, carried on, upon my part, at least, with all the zeal and energy of the most determined convictions of right. To meet you under the circumstances of this night affords me the great consolation of believing, that in those controversies I have not violated your rights, or forgotten the respect due to your characters. The asperities of the moment have disappeared with the excitements which gave them birth. They were

“ ——— Like snow-flakes on the river,  
A moment white, then lost forever.”

You have made this the proudest incident of my life. Companions of my boyhood, friends of my manhood, associates in many private enterprises and public employments, my fellow-citizens who have given character and importance to our city—for so short is our municipal history—who have framed its institutions, who have established its credit, who have answered to the call of humanity

within its limits, who have provided for the education of its youth and the support of its unfortunate and its infirm—in a word, who have cared for both its physical and moral wants—have united in a mark of esteem to me personally, which has sunk deep into my heart, and which I will cherish, not only during my sojourn in the distant land to which I am about to go, but wherever I may be, as long as things of earth shall interest my mortal sense.

The realities of this scene awaken the memories of the past, and open visions of the future. Here were the play-grounds of my youth, and on humble porches, now displaced for grander mansions, sat the fathers whose words to me were oracles of wisdom. They have gone!—the patriarchs have been gathered to their fathers—and we, “in our turn, will follow them.” The hamlet of a hundred houses now takes rank among the first cities in the land. The change is marvellous.

Its spacious docks and warehouses, its spires and buildings, now challenge the admiration of the stranger, as he passes up our noble bay; and it vies in all the elements of material greatness with the great city beside it. It requires no spirit of prophecy to foretell the union of the two at no distant day. The river which divides them will soon cease to be a line of separation; and, bestrode by the colossus of commerce, will form the link which will bind them together. With you rests, in no small degree, this destiny. I doubt not that the same spirit of advancement, and the same enterprise

which has hitherto distinguished the citizens of Brooklyn, will mark their future action. You have established institutions which require your fostering but discriminating care. You have gained a character for public faith and honor which it behooves you to maintain untarnished. You have engaged in a work of great magnitude, and of the utmost importance to your growth and prosperity. Citizens of unblemished reputation, and of great intelligence and industry have devoted themselves to its completion. When done, it will not only be a monument to your enterprise and foresight, and a fresh impetus to your progress, but truly a fountain of health to the people.\*

Let me not, in speaking of the living, omit to do justice to the dead, to whom the honor is due of forming, in a great degree, the character and shaping the destiny of the city. When Brooklyn first assumed the habiliments of a city, like the stripling when he first takes the garb of a man, she imagined that she had the power and ability which belong to maturer years. Extravagant projects of public improvement were begun, but they were beyond both the requirements and means of the time. The embarrassments of 1836--7 found her with a depleted treasury, and a large floating debt. The depression in trade which followed, and the stagnation in real estate, rendered the most rigid economy necessary in the management of her affairs.

There have passed from among us two, and only two, of those who have held the chief magistracy

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\* Mr. MURPHY here alludes to the Water Works now in progress.

of the city. They, however, occupied the mayoralty chair at the crisis to which I have referred, and they were the men for the time. Both were remarkable for their knowledge of municipal affairs. The first, glorying in his Dutch descent, possessed that strong sense of commercial honor which characterized the people from which he claimed his ancestry. He made his mayoralty distinguished by satisfying the claims of all the public creditors, and established the credit of the city on a foundation which has never been shaken.

The other coming early in life from New England, like many others who have added character and wealth to the city, brought with him here those habits of economy and accountability, of which our affairs were then in want. He set the example of a personal supervision of every department of the city government, and relieved the public burdens by his frugal administration. I need say no more. I could say no less of Jeremiah Johnson and Joseph Sprague.

Nor let me pass by the brothers Graham. They have gone to their reward, but their noble charities live after them, to bring down blessings upon their name, as long as there will be misfortune in our city to relieve.

You have been pleased, sir, to refer to my new career in the country which first sent settlers to this portion of our Republic. It is more, perhaps, from courtesy to an ancient ally, than to any actual ne-

cessity, that Congress has provided for a Minister to the Hague. Time was when the relation between the two countries was very different from what it is at present. We were then a mere dependency of that power—a mere trading post of a commercial company, subject to the government of a board of directors and its rapacious agents. The Government at home could give little heed to the complaints of the people here. They were engaged in a strife for the dominion of the seas. Their naval heroes, Van Tromp and De Ruyter, were engaged in battling the fleets of the Commonwealth of England, and of the ungrateful Charles, whom they had protected in his exile.

The Belgian lion, emblemized in their geography with his jaws upon the very heart of France and his tail sweeping the provinces of the Zuyder Zee, was then holding at bay the lion and the unicorn of Britain.

By their neglect they lost their dominion over this country forever. The people, chagrined at their abandonment, soon became reconciled to the new dynasty, and even the last of the Dutch Governors became a subject of the British crown. But in our Revolution, as if to atone for its former fault, the Dutch Republic was the first to follow France in acknowledging our independence, while yet the contest was undecided. She had failed us when she might have profited by her succor, but she nobly sustained us in our greatest need, when we could no longer be of service to her. She encour-

aged and supported our drooping cause, and nerved the arms of the patriots to further exertion, until, finally, we took our position co-equal with herself in the family of nations. For three quarters of a century our relations of peace and friendship have been undisturbed, and nought but the ordinary claims of commerce have engaged the attention of the two countries.

I do not, therefore, expect that the matters with which I will be charged will be of such interest as to attract general attention; but I will endeavor so to represent the country, as to prove that the confidence of the Government in me has not been misplaced, and that your partiality, my friends and neighbors, has not been unworthily bestowed. While I regard the distinction which I have received at the hands of the President, as receiving additional honor from the favor with which you have received it, I will regard his approval of my labors, when I shall have surrendered my trust, as a most fortunate event, if they shall meet yours also.

I esteem it a happy circumstance, that from here, where first the skipper Hudson navigated a European craft, and where were laid the foundations of the New Netherland, I will be able to carry to Fatherland the kind remembrances of the children. I will bear testimony that the same habits of industry, the same high sense of commercial honor, and the same unconquerable love of liberty which distinguished their fathers, characterize their descendants.

With a heart overflowing with thankfulness for your cordial sympathy, and with most fervent prayers for your individual happiness, I bid you fare-well.

The next toast was—

“The Senate of the United States—a true Congress of the nation, where imperial sovereignties meet on equal footing, for the peaceful adjustment of all questions of policy, of right, and of national honor.”

The PRESIDENT observed that it was expected that the Hon. ZACHARY CHANDLER would have been present to respond to this toast, but he had been unavoidably detained.

The next toast was—

“The House of Representatives of the United States—speaking the voice of the people, and reflecting every movement of the great fountain of power.”

Hon. JOHN COCHRANE was called upon to respond, and spoke as follows:—

Mr. President—I am much at a loss for the reason which prompts the call for me to respond to the toast just drunk.

I arise from the midst of my colleagues to that Congress you applaud, and feel great diffidence in speaking to a subject they are so much better qualified to discuss than I am. Yet, aware that physical afflictions temporarily disqualify them for speaking, I undertake for their relief what I should decline as a distinction. Your toast refers to the faithful reflection, by the House of Representatives, of the popular opinion. Yes, sir; they who have trod



the rugged path of politics can speak advisedly of the close observance, by the Representative in Congress, of the fluctuations of public sentiment. They are his political guide; to mistake them is political error, and to disregard them is political death. I think it must be clear to those familiar with the hopes and fears which beset the modern politician, that there is no danger of the opinions of the people being either misunderstood or opposed by the aspiring Legislators who constitute the House of Representatives. (Laughter.) However illustrative the fact may be, of the care with which the candidate for popular favor studies the popular mind, it has a more grave significance. In it is to be found the greatest security to a constituency against misrepresentation. The doctrine, I believe, has come to be generally accepted, that the representative is bound to observe the opinions of his constituents on all subjects of political importance, and to enforce them by his efforts, and to support them with his vote. That he should be suffered to act in this connection, regardless of the general sense, would involve the most alarming consequences attendant upon the violation of a public trust. As special agent, to whom has been delegated certain specific powers, he can no more exceed them than can the ambassador transcend his instructions. The breath of his life is the popular voice, and to the note which it sounds should his be trained.

The field of research which the toast indicates cannot be occupied on an occasion like this. Too

many and important are the considerations which belong to it, to be pressed into the compass of an after-dinner speech. All that I can hope to attain must necessarily be but an imperfect and faint sketch of the growth and office of popular representation. A very general mistake obtains in the comparisons frequently run between the modern Republic and the ancient Democracy. The collegian, fresh from his classics, sees in his own Republic the reproduced glories of Athens and Rome. We all are apt to confound the deliberative bodies, which characterize American institutions, with the popular assemblages which presided over the liberties of Greece. While the measure of general liberty enjoyed by each body is not unequal, its relative permanency is, without doubt, qualified by the method of attaining it by each. The patriotism of the Greek was stimulated by his personal assistance at the deliberations of the Pnyx. His interests were absorbed by the state questions submitted to his decision. As he listened and judged, war or peace was determined, treaties were made or refused, nations were accepted or crushed. The war which he declared in the council, he conducted in the field; the peace which he chose, he personally enforced; the nation which he regarded, he visited, and he invaded that which he doomed. It was the government of the people in person—that which prevailed on the continent of Greece. The arts flourished, eloquence was cherished, and all that could administer to military ardor was fostered and encouraged. These contributed to the national glory, and the national glory was the glory of every citizen.

Pericles was emblazoned with the trophies of Athens, and the humblest Greek was clothed with the glory of Pericles. There was no private pursuit, no domestic life, for the citizen. The glory of the acts of life he appropriated, but of their usefulness he was ignorant. The consequence was inevitable. His liberty was as evanescent as it was attractive. It lacked the basis of the individual virtues requisite to its endurance, and, with the first danger, it sank into night. But the glories with which it was decorated survive. The arts and the refinements, the patriotism and the genius, of Greece are still the admiration of the world; her liberties were the prey of her weakness many centuries ago. Nor, can more be declared of that colossal government, which overshadowed the world, and made all the world Rome. The genius of her councils was conquest, and the instrument she employed was the people. Assuredly were the appointments of freedom procured and guarded with the jealousy of freemen. But they served but to invigorate the armies with which she subdued nations; they were employed for the protection of the citizen in a brief and fitful life of interior liberty, soon to be overwhelmed by those very cohorts, in whose strength lay the glory of Republican Rome, and the security of the Roman citizen. There was no real liberty enjoyed in the Roman Republic as in Greece; its object was the glory of the Government, rather than the happiness of the people. So, we read of her conquests, of her firmness, of her virtues and her literature, but never of the prosperity of her people. She fell, as all must and ever will fall, whose found-

dations do not rest on the prosperity of the people, —as all must and ever will fall who do not seek their own glory in the elevation of the masses. The storm swept over Rome and her dependencies. Night fell upon Europe. Away, in the dim depths of German forests, was at length perceived the faint efforts of the coming day. Their rude natives had not been educated to the glories of the antique. They were neither refined by classic art, nor civilized to the standard of Roman liberty; but they were instinct with a just appreciation of human rights. The glory which their deeds reflected upon their rulers was little worth, if it did not secure the rights, when establishing the power of the people. While engaged with the first consideration—the prosperity of their private relations—they delegated to the wisdom of their associates the care of the public good. The inconvenience of numbers, in the constitution of popular assemblages, conduced to the delegation of popular powers, and so, in the Witenagemote of the German forest, are we taught to look for the earliest seed of that representative liberty which blesses this land. Its struggle into life, however, has not been unattended by vicissitude and danger. The contests which troubled Europe at the downfall of the Roman Empire shook fearfully the recesses of the ancient Germania—with a terrible impetus her wild tribes swayed; nor was it till after the calm of exhaustion, that, during the middle ages, the representative principle began again to assert for itself the protectorate of human rights. Preparatory steps had to be taken, however, before this assertion could be heard. The

people were to be rescued from the low social scale in which want and poverty had placed them. The exigencies to which the Crusades had reduced the powerful barons engaged in them, compelled a recourse for relief to the patient accumulations of the citizen. Accompanying such applications came the impetus given to industry, by the demands of a reviving commerce. The beneficial effects were first felt by the Italian cities. Venice, Verona, Genoa, acquired wealth, representation, liberty! The cities of Lombardy soon after imitated their example. The enjoyment of wealth furnished the means of asserting independence. Soon the spirit of popular freedom passed the bounds of private security, and individual considerations, for the more public theatre of national freedom. The genial and liberalizing influences of commerce were sought for. Lubeck, Cologne, Brunswick and Dantzic combined for the common liberty, and, together with eighty other cities, formed that celebrated Hanseatic League which extended a commercial republic through Europe. Thus were the incipient approaches made towards that great principle of popular representation, which is the burden of the toast you have drunk. The peculiar feature of this period consisted in the careful attention of the burgher to the pursuits of private life, and the culture of individual virtues, combined with the potency of his voice, in a representative capacity, in the public councils. But it was reserved for the united provinces of the Netherlands to develop, against bitter civil and religious oppression, the representative principle to its just proportions. The severity of Spanish tyranny had prob-

ably been an inadequate cause of their rebellion, had not a fierce religious persecution been added. The combination was sufficient to produce a war, in which the civil and religious liberty of the citizen was successfully maintained. Europe saw the result, and the lovers of constitutional liberty all over the world have faithfully adhered to an example which, thus far, has furnished to man the only institutions which successfully establish and protect his rights. It is unnecessary, Mr. President, that I should pursue further this theme. You can readily perceive how full of interest and information its discussion must be. The march of constitutional liberty has indeed been, from distant ages, in perilous ways down to the present. Hardly had it been relieved of the dangers of general ignorance, ere it was imperilled by the confederated powers of local and national tyrannies. Happily rescued from these, and the combined powers of superstition and clerical oppression bore heavily against it. Yet has it survived. Founded upon the inalienable right of representative legislation, from century to century has it moved steadily along the path of human progress, armed with the destinies and protecting the rights of the race. It is to be observed, that the liberty of the world of the Nineteenth Century does not consist in the liberty which accumulates grandeur upon the ruler and glory upon the nation. This was the liberty of the ancient world—of the Greek and the Roman. The liberty of to-day is that which dwells with the citizen in his workshop, with the man at his fireside; which bestows itself upon his pursuits to utilize them, and upon his

thoughts to ennoble them; and which too, while thus constructing broadly the basis of permanency and duration, secures to every individual his proper legislative function, by ordaining forever his right of representation. This, Mr. President, is constitutional liberty. You have, therefore, done well to remember, on this occasion, the House of Representatives of the United States. It is the fortress of our liberty; while it stands, our freedom will stand; when it falls, the hope of the world will be extinguished. Guardian of the people's rights, may its purity never suffer. Representative of the people's thoughts, may it never reflect them improperly.

The next toast was—

"The City of New York—representing in her vast population every language and country of the earth; closely connected by commercial ties, and seeking always amicable intercourse with all nations, she regards with a peculiar interest a friendly mission to that state to which she owes her origin."

HON. FERNANDO WOOD, Mayor of New York, was called upon to respond. He spoke as follows:—Mr. President and Gentlemen—This is a most unexpected call, and it is not the first time I have felt my inability to represent the City of New York. I will say, however, that it gives me personally a great deal of pleasure to be present upon this occasion, and to say for New York, that she responds, so far as I am capable and have authority to speak for her, fully to the sentiments which have been expressed here to-night, in honor of your distinguished fellow-citizen. (Applause.) New York congratulates her sister of Brooklyn upon this pro-

motion, if it be promotion, of her distinguished son. She congratulates the Administration upon its judgment, upon its discretion, in the selection of her Minister, and she congratulates the whole country, that by him the interests of the Union will never be betrayed—its flag will never be dishonored. (Renewed applause.) Mr. President, this sentiment which you have just drunk says that New York must regard with a peculiar interest a mission to that State from whence she derives her origin. Sir, this sentiment is as truthful as it is beautifully and forcibly expressed.

New York must ever regard—dependent as she is upon friendly relations with the whole world—all peaceful and friendly missions, the harbingers and safe-guards of commerce; but, sir, in this case she cannot forget that Holland was her ancient mother. She cannot forget that she was once New Amsterdam, and that New Amsterdam owes its origin, its foundation, to the enterprise, the energy and industry of the sons of Holland. Therefore, sir, it is that New York entertains a regard for Holland; and I may say, in passing, that much of her prosperity is owing to that industry, to those strong principles of probity and commercial integrity, which have, from the establishment of the Government of the Netherlands, characterized her people at home and abroad, in her colonies and elsewhere. It is a singular fact, that at this present time some of the provisions of the original Dutch code (if I may be allowed the expression) of our city are now in existence, almost letter for letter, as they



were known at the time of the conquest of New Amsterdam by the British Government. There have been transmitted through the two centuries which have intervened many provisions of local government, many views of local municipal independence, many customs and practices, and references to the administration of the Government, which are still referred to occasionally by public officers, regarding the City of New York, and are those most easily enforced, and with the present population of New York, so little Dutch as it is, are those most generally acquiesced in.

Mr. President, there is one feature of this evening's entertainment that to me is exceedingly gratifying. It is gratifying to find so large a collection of persons, brought together, not by any party or political consideration, to do honor and respect to a gentleman who has been one of the most prominent, as well as the most distinguished members, of a political party. I say it is gratifying to see this toleration, to find that here, without reference to the political or religious feelings of any man, you have met to do honor to a distinguished fellow-citizen. It is not to promote his political advancement, or to advocate or maintain the doctrines of a party, or a faction, or a section, or to carry out any scheme or enterprise of personal aggrandizement, that you are here; but to pay that homage due to a fellow-citizen who has grown up among you, whose life has been one of probity, and who, from his pure personal character and the distinguished positions which the favoritism of his fellow-citizens have

conferred upon him,—you are here ; in short, to pay that respect which his merit and genius demand. (Loud applause.)

In conclusion, gentlemen, I can only say that I can condole with you upon the loss you have to meet with. Well do I know the value of an enterprising public citizen. Well do I know, from experience in the position which I have the honor to hold, the fact, that one public spirited, energetic, enterprising private man, who commands the public confidence, is most useful, not only in developing the mechanical, the financial or commercial advantages of a city, but in standing by the public officers in enforcing the laws, and maintaining the preservation of the public peace. Therefore it is, that knowing as I know, and appreciating as I appreciate, from many years acquaintance, the gentleman we are about to lose—I know, if it be his gain to go abroad, it is your loss. You will feel the loss of his counsels, the loss of his sage advice, his industry, his assiduity, his vast experience in public affairs, particularly in reference to the City of Brooklyn. All I can say to you and to him is, that wherever he goes, not only the hearts of the people of Brooklyn will be with him, and watch over him, so far as they have the power, but I speak for the City of New York, when I say there is not a heart but will beat in unison with your own.

Mr. Wood sat down amid peals of deafening applause.

The next toast was—

“The City of Brooklyn—the little Dutch hamlet planted on the edge of Nassau Island, now sends from her two hundred thousand citizens, to the Fatherland, a Representative of thirty millions of people.”

MAYOR POWELL was called upon to respond. He said—Mr. Chairman, I discover the faces of many citizens of Brooklyn, and those not very far advanced in the vale of years, who remember the City of Brooklyn when she was little better than the little Dutch hamlet spoken of in the toast—when the Village of Brooklyn was an insignificant place. I think that you, with me, must feel a pride when we traverse our streets, and see the monuments of the industry of our people—the works of art, the extent of accommodations in the shape of railroads, and all the other appliances that go to make up a great and beautiful city: I say we must feel a pride that we are the residents of so fair an inheritance. I behold around me gentlemen by whose industry, energy and enterprise these great changes have been brought about, yet, as I said in the beginning of my remarks, they are not far advanced in the vale of years. We have sprung from a village to a large and populous city; and yet the young men who are sitting around this board are among the founders of this prosperity. Among the most energetic, the most useful, and most tried of those who laid the foundation of this prosperity, is the gentleman who has been called to act in another sphere of life; and I think when he is gone, when his services are lost to the associations and institutions and organizations from which have sprung the present pros-

perity of Brooklyn, he will be missed more than we can at present conceive. As you are all aware, he has occupied in this city a leading position in all public enterprises, and he at present occupies that same position; and it has always been a matter of surprise to me, that the citizens have not risen *en masse*, and refused to allow him to depart on this mission. In the language of the little song, frequently heard in our parlors,

“ We will miss him at home.”

I remember the gentleman, in whose honor we have met to-night, in the commencement of his career as a politician, and I suppose, in some instances, we might have been regarded as rivals; but I am very glad, at the present time, to say, that there is no man who rejoices more profoundly at his success than the humble individual who now addresses you.

Mayor Powell resumed his seat amid repeated plaudits.

The next toast was—

“ The Judiciary—its salutary authority rests upon its independence, and will continue so long as it administers the law alike unseduced by the influences of power, and unterrified by popular clamor.”

Judge PARKER, of Albany, being called from different parts of the room, rose and spoke as follows:

I hardly know, Mr. Chairman, why I should be expected to respond in behalf of the Judiciary,

when there is a gentleman sitting by my side, who now belongs to that department of the government, and who is so much better qualified than myself to take a *Birdseye* view of the subject. But, though my connexion with the bench has ceased, I shall always be ready to express my thanks for a complimentary allusion to those who serve in that laborious and ill-requited, but most important branch of the public service.

I concur, fully, Mr. Chairman, in the sentiment you have just read. Our judiciary is distinguished no less for its integrity, than for its learning, and is entitled to our sincere respect. It may sometimes happen that we may differ from it in its interpretation or application of the law; but such difference of opinion warrants no imputation either upon its learning, integrity or ability. Upon the judiciary of the general government, is devolved the high duty of interpreting the Federal Constitution, and of deciding between the States of this wide-spread confederacy, as well as between individuals of distant localities and differing prejudices. Without a cheerful acquiescence in the decisions of that high tribunal, we can hardly hope for a continuance of a system of government combining so many diverse elements as our own. In our state government also, most important and delicate duties are devolved upon the judiciary. First among these, is that of deciding upon the constitutionality of a statute—a duty of frequent recurrence in a state so characterized as ours by hasty legislation. The Courts are thus made the shield to protect the

citizen against unwarranted legislative action. If a statute is in conflict with the Constitution, under the decision of the Courts it will be inoperative and void. If not in conflict, but otherwise objectionable, the remedy is by repeal, and if the Constitution as interpreted is defective, the people have the power to amend it. In a country where the widest latitude of discussion exists, it is expected that the decisions of the judiciary, as well as the acts of all other departments of the government, will be freely canvassed, and in some cases closely criticised. But upon these subjects, as well as upon all others, of public interest, there should be forbearance, respect for the opinion of others, and a sincere desire to promote the public good.

There are times, and I regret that they do not occur more frequently, when partisan animosities are laid aside, when the kindlier feelings of our nature triumph, and when all seem willing to unite in some act of patriotism, of duty, or of friendship; and such, Mr. Chairman, is the noble example set by this large assemblage upon the present occasion. Such a gathering as this is, without distinction of party, to do honor to your distinguished guest, about to represent this country at a foreign Court, is a triumph of justice and of liberality of sentiment over partisan prejudice, and cannot fail to exert a happy influence throughout our land.

The occasion, Mr. Chairman, is certainly one of great interest. It was eminently proper that our Representative at the Court of the Netherlands

should be fitted for his high trust, as he is, by a thorough knowledge of the language and literature of the country to which he is accredited—that he should be able to represent, as he will most faithfully, the kind feeling towards that country which exists throughout the whole extent of our land, and particularly among the large portion of our population that is of Dutch descent. In our people are combined the best elements of all the European races. The richest blood of each flows in our veins. The ready wit and generous heart of the Celt—the indomitable and self-confident spirit of the Anglo-Saxon, and the incorruptible integrity and plodding industry of the Hollander, are by no means among the least valuable qualities of our mixed race, which, improved by these best selections from the choicest races of the Old World and combining their excellences, will yet demonstrate the full extent of its capabilities and its power.

Mr. Chairman, I can claim the honor of no Dutch blood in my own veins, but I should be untrue to myself and to my own ancestry, if I failed to express my gratitude to that country which received and sheltered our Puritan fathers before they sought an abiding place on this side of the Atlantic—if I failed to acknowledge our many obligations as a nation to that same country, and to admire the virtues which distinguish its inhabitants. We can never cease to wonder at the spectacle of a country rescued from the sea by the industry and perseverance of its people. Holland, with its thousand windmills all trained to daily toil,—its lakes pumped dry and converted into farms, rewarding an hun-

dred fold, the labors of the husbandman—its cities, its universities, its canals and its commerce,—who that has seen it, can ever forget it or cease to wonder at the magic change that industry has there accomplished? Who that has visited the village of Brock will fail to award the palm for neatness to the Dutch housewife? And who can ever cease to admire the patriotism of a people ready to tear open their dykes and surrender their beautiful country again to the dominion of the sea, rather than submit to be conquered by a foreign invader? We may well be proud that we are bound to such a country by ties of blood and affection, and that the virtues of the people of the parent land are perpetuated here among their posterity.

I am proud, Mr. Chairman, to stand here to-night, as the representative of that ancient City, the Capital of our State, originally settled by the Hollanders, and still, to a great extent, occupied by their worthy descendants—the city of the Bleeckers, and Lansings, and Gansevoorts—the Van Rensselaers and Van Vechtens and Van Schaicks—the Pruyns and Ten Eycks and Ten Broecks; and I rejoice that the gentleman who has been selected to represent them at the father-land, while he will seek to preserve the most amicable national relations, will also strive to increase the mutual respect and good will, which should always subsist between the people of the two countries.

In conclusion, I beg leave, sir, to propose the following toast:—

“The Citizens of Brooklyn—Distinguished alike for their enterprise, their justice and their liberality of sentiment.”



Judge BIRDSEYE, being also called upon, spoke as follows :—

Mr. President :—It has pleased my eloquent and learned friend, who has just taken his seat, to allude to *names*. Having set the example, he cannot complain if I follow it. While he was speaking, there occurred to my mind, in spite of myself, a little verse in regard to one Counsellor Parker. To what particular Counsellor of that name it referred, I am not able positively to state. I had not the pleasure of knowing my good friend who sits here at my right hand, when he was simply Counsellor Parker. My acquaintance with him began some years later, when from being a Counsellor he had risen to the Bench, and was illustrating by his life the toast to which he has just responded so eloquently. I was then just commencing the practice of my profession, and tried, as I well recollect, my first case before him. But, from what I then saw, and have ever since seen, I am disposed to think the song was not made about him, but of some other excellent Counsellor belonging to the family of Parkers. You, sir, and all who have heard him, will be able to judge of the applicability of the lines to him, when you hear them. They run, sir, somewhat in this wise :

“Counsellor Parker made that darker,  
Which was dark enough without ;  
Counsellor Cook cited his book,  
And the Judge remarked, ‘I doubt.’”

I shall not attempt to state by what law ; not of association, but rather of the very reverse ; of con-

trast and dissimilarity, this description should have recurred to my mind. I can only put the question to him. If he cannot throw light upon it, it will be the first time I have ever known him to discuss a point without making it clearer.

But, sir, owing, as I am conscious I do, the honor of being called upon on this occasion to the accident of my position, I shall endeavor to put in practice some of the lessons learned during my brief experience on the bench. One is, that it is the duty of the Judge rather to be listener than a speaker. It is very rare, however, that the performance of that duty is as pleasing as it has been this evening. And it is to be regretted that, just when the duty is the pleasantest, I am compelled to cease the observance of it, and become a trespasser on your patience. But, I shall be brief, for I have also learned on the bench that the shortest speeches are, in general, not only the most pleasing, but the most effective.

But there is another lesson which the Judge, especially if he be a young Judge, must learn. When a just decision has been rendered, and a good reason for it given by the presiding Judge, the other members of the Court should be satisfied with concurring both in the result and the reasoning.

So, sir, I may content myself with concurring, as I most heartily do, in the eloquent tribute which has just been paid to the independence of the Judiciary.

But, sir, if I desired to say more than my friend has said on that subject, I need but to mention the

names of those eminent Judges in the State and the Nation, whose whole lives were but a continued illustration of what your toast describes:—the names of Marshall and Washington, and Livingston and Thompson, of Kent and Spencer, and Van Ness and Marcy, and many others of the honored dead; not to mention the equally honorable names of many others who happily yet survive.

The lives and labors of such men have secured the enlightened, fearless and impartial administration of justice. They have vindicated public justice, and awarded to crime the punishment it merited. They have guarded the property, the character, the liberty and the life of the citizen. And in the public confidence and respect which they and their associates obtained and preserved, you may find an explanation of the real powers of the Judiciary, and a guaranty of their continuance.

By following in their footsteps, and emulating their example, may the integrity, the impartiality and the independence of the Judiciary be best preserved. For it should never be forgotten that the character of the Court, and to no small extent, of the law which it administers, takes its hue from the individual character of the Judge who presides. So long as he is quick and clear to perceive what is just and true, and firm of will to pursue that, so long will he command, for he will deserve, the unshaken confidence of his fellow citizens. In this latter quality, the fixedness of purpose to do what is true and right, unswerved by passion or prejudice, not shrinking through fear or favor, not knowing

any obligation so sacred as that of duty, nor any pleasure so sweet as that of duty fulfilled, is found the crowning excellence of the judicial character. There are many minds that are clear enough and strong enough for the discharge of all the duties of the Bench, however delicate or responsible. But who would select for the performance of those duties the greatest human intellect, if confidence were lacking in the uprightness of motive, and the resoluteness of purpose which were to impel and control it.

The Bench will be recruited hereafter, sir, as it has been hitherto, from the ranks of the Bar. And in the learning, the firmness and the integrity of the Bar, is another great guarantee for the independence and impartiality of the bench.

The absence, even for a limited period, and for sufficient reasons, of such a lawyer from our Courts, is to be regretted. While others present have spoken of our honored guest, as the kind friend, the good neighbor, the public spirited citizen, the zealous promoter of every enterprise which tended to the growth and prosperity of our City, it remains for me to speak of him, as the good lawyer and the able advocate, prompt to defend every just right of his client, ready and correct in his learning, never speaking but to instruct, and while asking nothing wrong, giving up nothing that is right.

The departure of such a man, I do, as I properly may, regret. But his absence will, I trust, be but

temporary. He goes to return again, with an enlarged experience, a wider knowledge of mankind, and increased capacities for usefulness.

The first and greatest of poets, in describing the character of his wisest hero, gives prominence to the fact that he had visited the cities of many nations, and studied their characters.

Our friend is departing, with the good wishes of us all, to do the same. I know few men better fitted to profit by the experience.

And when he shall return, laden with its fruits, with his powers expanded and invigorated, and his affection for home and friends made warmer and deeper by his wanderings:—then, sir, in the exercise of his profession; in the part which, as a lawyer, he may take in the administration of justice, he may find ample and fit employment for his loftiest energies.

I beg leave, in conclusion, to propose the following sentiment :

“The Return of our Friend—We send him forth with pride; we shall welcome him home again with pleasure.”

The next toast was—

“The Old and New Netherlands.—We hail with that grave complacency which becomes our Dutch descent, the continuance of amicable relations between those two great kindred commonwealths.”

The Hon. GULIAN C. VERPLANCK replied on the call of the chair:—

He observed that he presumed that he owed the honor of being specially invited to respond to this

toast to his Holland name and blood, and to his representing on this occasion the St. Nicholas Society of New York, as one of its former Presidents. The subject itself was one which filled his mind and warmed his heart, and he had much more to say upon it, than the time and the claims of others would now permit him to express. He congratulated the Union and the State of New York, as well as the beautiful city in which we were assembled, on the selection of this favorite son of Brooklyn, as the Diplomatic Representative of the United States to the Fatherland of so many of us; for he was one eminently fitted to bear to that old Fatherland, the warm good wishes, the cordial sympathies of hundreds of thousands—nay, it was no exaggeration to say, even *millions* of American citizens who boast of the old blood of Holland, and feel a grateful sense of the numerous benefits, political, individual and intellectual, which Holland has bestowed upon these United States. We have no occasion to undervalue those who have of late years represented our Government at the Hague; for the public interest and national honor have been safe in their hands; but still, with the exception of the late excellent and honored Harmanus Bleecker, they were not specially fitted to convey the sympathies and sentiments of the sons of Holland on this side of the Atlantic, to their cousins in Europe. It was time, then,—to borrow an expressive phrase of Indian diplomacy, often used by the orators of the Six Nations in their negotiations with our old Governors,—it was “time to brighten the chain of friendship.”

The President's judicious selection for this station of one so well fitted by his early and local associations, and his knowledge of the language, history and literature of Holland, will brighten this chain, so that, as the Indian diplomatists sometimes said, "it will shine like silver."

I have often been surprised, said Mr. V. to find that men high in position in Holland, even sometimes the diplomatic representatives of her government, were hardly aware how widely diffused are the blood and lineage of the Netherlands throughout our Union, and that they scarcely knew that the language of Holland had been preserved in familiar use to the third and fourth, and even the ninth and tenth generation from the original settlers of the banks of the Hudson.

About five years ago, as many here will remember, the old tri-coloured flag of Holland floated in our harbor, over a noble frigate, admirably equipped and, I must add, admirably officered. The St. Nicholas Society of New York entertained those officers at a banquet as brilliant as the luxury of New York could make it, and more brilliant from the presence and participation of many distinguished persons. Some remarks of my own which were called forth by the occasion, excited no little surprise and even doubt, when I said that the ancient blood of the United Netherlands had, on this side of the Atlantic, nearly or quite as many descendants as owned the allegiance of the Mother country in Europe. This may seem a wild exaggeration, yet the comparison of regular tables of our

several censuses National or State taken every ten and five years, with the less precise, but yet sufficiently reliable tables of our colonial population, will show the correctness of this assertion. The magnitude and the rate of this increase are easily explained by the arithmetical puzzle which perplexes school boys, in the problem of one shilling for the first nail in the horse's shoes, two for the second, and so doubling to the last, when it swells to a startling amount. Thus it was with the ten or twelve thousand Dutch colonists of New York and New Jersey, who became British subjects in 1664. These, with some additions, when William of Orange became William III. of England, and some more from time to time afterwards, had at the date of the Declaration of Independence, one hundred and twelve years after, swelled to a majority, probably—certainly to the most numerous race in two of the original Thirteen United States. The same rate (at least) of progression has doubtless gone on, with this thriving and industrious race, as amongst their neighbors, so that they, like their Yankee neighbors, have swarmed all over our continent, making the names, the usages, the traditions and even the vestiges of the language of Holland familiar in Iowa and Wisconsin, and the still further West. Thus it is no exaggeration at all to say, that we of Dutch descent,—many indeed not of pure Dutch blood, but mixed with other races to the great advantage of both, as has just been eloquently shown (by Judge Parker)—are fast approaching to, if we have not already outnumbered, the present census of



the Kingdom of Holland. I should trespass too much on your patience, if I were to expatiate (as I am tempted to do,) on our obligations to the venerable Fatherland in our civil policy, and in our intellectual acquisitions, for these are subjects familiar to many about me.

Thence it was that we learned the value of local municipal institutions, combined with provincial or State sovereignties, all united in the stability, dignity and power of a Federative Government. I could show the evidence of other obligations, not less marked, in our revolutionary history, in our diplomacy, in the details of our frame of government. But the great lesson of all was that, which, by precept and example, taught us to combine the freedom and adaptation of local administration with the energy and dignity of a national existence. It was this principle which the old States of the United Netherlands felt to be the source of their independence, and their internal prosperity, amidst the mighty and hostile nations around them. This principle they embodied in their ancient national motto, "*Eendraght Maakt Maght*," "Union makes strength." That is the common and the dictionary translation of the motto, but to the ear of an old fashioned Dutchman it was expressive of something stronger and more vivid than this mere abstraction however wise and true. Their language, though it is thought not "euphonious," is peculiarly expressive and often picturesque, if the phrase may be allowed. It preserves in its compounds and derivatives, the natural symbol or figure under

which abstract ideas were originally represented, resembling, in this respect, the ancient Greek and the modern German. The *Eendraght* expresses the scriptural idea of "bearing one another's burdens," and the spirit may be well given by paraphrasing it in our colloquial phrase of "*a pull altogether.*" Those who first applied it in its national sense, carried out fully the spirit of our own good idiomatic phrase and made it for many a year "a long pull, and a strong pull, and a pull altogether."

The other motto which you have before you, in the decorations of this hall, emblazoned with the lion-supported flag of the Netherlands, has also another forcible meaning, and especially so in connexion with the other national motto. It is, "*Je Maintiendrai.*" This was the old armorial bearing of the house of Orange, and perhaps had originally only a feudal meaning of a stern resolve to maintain the rights and honor of the Prince who bore it. But it acquired a nobler and broader sense under the first and greatest of the Stadtholders, the elder William of Orange—the national hero of Holland, the Washington of the Seven United Provinces; for there is a very remarkable resemblance between these two great men, in their history, their achievements and their personal character, in their solid and unpretending virtues and talents, in the slow but sure and powerful operation of their minds, in their wisdom, their practical sagacity, their resolute perseverance, their power of converting even defeat into eventual victory, and making the loss of a battle conduce in

its results to the triumph of their cause. The resemblance extended even to secondary personal qualities and peculiarities, such as the general gravity and silence of both. On his lion-crested banner, and that of his worthy successors, this motto of “*Je Maintiendrai*,” was borne, associated with the broad stripes of the Federative Republic, and its “*Eendraght Maakt Maght*,” and floated for many a year, and in many a field of peril and of glory. Thus that motto expressed to the whole nation the noble idea of a pledge of resolute maintenance of the liberties and honor of their country, of their faith and their UNION. It was a constant pledge (to borrow the poet’s words) to

—“Stand by their country’s honor fast,  
And nail her colors to the mast.”

This pledge was faithfully observed for many glorious years. I have already said that Holland has given to our own country many precious lessons, but none of the teachings of her history are more impressive than those of these two old national mottoes—may they sink deep into our hearts and be long illustrated in the future history of these *United States*.

Mr. Verplanck concluded by asking the company to join in the following sentiment:—

“The two national mottoes of the United Netherlands, ‘*Eendraght Maakt Maght*’ and ‘*Je Maintiendrai*,’ both teaching great lessons of political wisdom and of patriotic resolution, long and nobly exemplified in the history of the lion-crested flag of the Netherlands. They claim the emulation and generous rivalry of all who honor the Star-spangled Banner of our Union.”

The next toast was—

“The Reformed Clergy—let them not quite despair of us, their sadly unreformed people.”

To this sentiment the Rev. Dr. BETHUNE responded, but as his remarks were wholly extemporaneous, they are given, with slight emendations, from the report in the *BROOKLYN EAGLE*:—

I need not say, Mr. Chairman, that it gives me great pleasure to be present this evening, but may be permitted to add, that I have given a proof of it from the fact that my being here has involved the necessity of travelling some hundred and eighty or two hundred miles. (Applause.) My duties in some relations of life required me to be absent since I received the invitation of the Committee, but I did, upon sober reflection, consider it was also my duty to be here. I rise to express, in common with all who have gone before me,—for the idea must be uppermost in the mind,—the gratification which every honorable spirit must feel in contemplating this assemblage. In the first place, to see so many honorable gentlemen from abroad, who sympathize with us in this our hour of pride and pleasure; and also to meet so many of the solid men of Brooklyn upon an occasion which, while it was intended to do honor to our eminent fellow-citizen, does equal honor to those who projected it. This is not a political meeting, and yet, as I look around me, I see the representatives of every party;—a clear proof that in this land there is a real freedom of opinion, and that

the man who, like our friend, has never hesitated openly to declare his honest sentiments, never lost in the estimation of any honest man. There may be those who, straining the proprieties of religion to asceticism, may frown upon a festival like this; but I remember, sir, in the most beautiful parable of sacred writ, which more than all presents the character of our Father who is in Heaven, that when the prodigal son returned, his father made a feast for him; and shall we not make a feast when we send forth one of our most honored sons upon a most honorable mission? (Applause.)

As to the reference to the Reformed Clergy, I cannot but say I am called upon to represent them, for that term descends with the family of churches who carried the banner of the Reformation alongside of the Lutheran host on the Continent of Europe; and here it is my privilege to represent not only the Reformed Church, but that branch of it which is one of the richest legacies which the Dutch fathers of this portion of the country have left to their children. It is fitting, sir, that some blessing should go forth with our friend to that honored land from the Church which uses—except so far as translation may have altered them—the religious forms, and creeds, and sacred songs in which the Christian men of Holland have worshipped since the Reformation. I do not recognize all the gentlemen here as belonging to my flock, nor do I feel so responsible for them, that I shall undertake to defend them altogether from the charge of being unreformed. All I can say upon

this subject is, that, if they will put themselves under my care, I will do the best I can to reform them, though I certainly do not undertake impossibilities.

It may at first seem strange that, when we are called to part with a friend so learned, and a public servant so useful, that we make it a season of congratulation; but we are obliged to stifle any sentiment of personal regret by the thought of the honor that has been conferred upon him, and the honor which he will certainly render to his country when abroad. I say the honor which has been conferred upon him; and, while I speak thus, and with all respect to the eminent citizen at the head of this Republic, I do not hesitate to say that the Administration has been as much honored by the appointment as our friend has been. (Applause.)

It is a pleasure to attend on any occasion that brings together Brooklyn men. Our great fault as Brooklyn men is, that we do not come together more. I call every one of you to witness, who has been present on any occasion resembling this—in a faint degree, for I have never seen such an assemblage of Brooklyn men—that, whenever we have met and talked of Brooklyn, we have gone home with our heads higher, and with a firmer tread, and with a stronger sense of love for the city in which we live. I cannot, therefore, sympathize in the sentiment of our fellow-citizen, that Brooklyn may some day be lost in another city. I remember

once to have heard of a woman who had a quarrel with another, and that other called her an "individual," when she burst into tears and said, "Have I lived so long to be called an individual?" And I cannot help thinking that, although we have the representatives of two cities before us, some of us must feel in the same category. Born in New York, and a resident from choice in Brooklyn, honoring my native city, and faithful to the city of my adoption, I have often been happy when making the union of affection in my heart, and never until lately have I seen a cause of regret or unpleasantness from this source. But here we are, New York and Brooklyn, and I do not know how many other parts, *individualized into a Metropolitan District*. (Laughter and applause.) I beg pardon, sir, if I have trespassed on the harmony of the meeting by the introduction of party politics. But my only excuse is, that that is a kind of politics to which I am not a party. (Renewed laughter and applause.)

Our friend goes from Brooklyn, and it is right, as I had the honor of saying in my note of acceptance to the Committee who did me the honor of inviting me, that on his departure from the home of his youth, and the theatre of his public services, he should be complimented by a testimonial from his fellow-citizens of all parties, that Brooklyn should say to him, as the Spartan mother said to her son, buckling on

" ——the shield—  
Return *with* it and victory,  
Or *on* it, from the field."

So we now give to him the shield of our respect and our good wishes. Let him bear them with him, and, when he comes back, we shall honor him more because he shall have honored us abroad. And when he reaches that honored fatherland from which came the early settlers of this part of the land, let him tell them what he left here behind him. Yes, sir, (turning to Mr. Murphy,) tell them there, that the descendants of the original settlers of Brooklyn are here now, although centuries have passed away, and that the virtues of the fathers flourish more vigorously in the virtues of the descendants. I look around this table and see living proofs of what I say—and pardon me if I mention the names of the Lotts, Van Brunts, and Polhemuses. We can say to you, and you can say to them, that neither in physical stature, in intellectual power, nor moral worth, has there been any degeneracy. Notwithstanding the Oriental incursions which we have had among us, I will back the descendants of the Dutch in this community as men who will outweigh all the rest. Tell those old Hollanders, also,—what I fear they do not sufficiently remember,—that to the foresight of their fathers is owing the establishment of the noble city at the confluence of those two rivers; and of this, which is destined, in time, to rival, if not exceed it in magnitude. Yes, sir, that that city, with all its commerce, its learning, religion, and multitude of honest men, with all its force of character and wealth,—this community, every pulse of whose heart is felt throughout all the ramifying veins of this vast Confederacy, and tells upon the remotest portion



of the civilized earth,—that this great metropolis, so stupendous in its size and importance, is built upon the foundation which the Hollanders laid. It is easy to heap up stone and mortar, but unless the foundation be firm, the whole superstructure must soon fall away; and I believe that nothing less than the virtues, the industry, the example, and the blood of Holland, would have been sufficient as a foundation, to sustain the immense weight imposed upon what was once New Netherland. I have but one word more, (cries of “Go on—go on,”) and that is, that this country, composed, as it is, of all bloods, owes much of its spirit to such mixture of races; for I believe that crossing the breed improves the stock, and that one reason why New York takes the lead in the Union is, that she has the largest admixtures of the best blood of all nations; but the strong blood of Holland was the first.

This country owes to Holland that species of filial gratitude and respect which is due to great precedents and high examples. No man ever devoted himself to the study of the history of Holland without becoming an enthusiastic admirer of that history,—finding in it the seeds of all free principles of modern times,—and feeling in his heart a sentiment of gratitude to Almighty God for enabling noble men to rescue from the sea that land, and make it the cradle in which the modern liberties of the world have been rocked. In the union of her trades, the absence of nobles, and a brave democracy to keep out the sea, and keep

back the feudal tyrants that would have crushed her municipalities, we discover the principles of that system of constitutional government under which we now rejoice. Her States were for a time, indeed, distracted and belligerent against each other, but soon learning that division among free neighbors was death, she presented a front which the power of Spanish cruelty and arms could not break, and formed, for the first time in the history of the world, the league of independent sovereignties,—the Union which typified our own. This we owe to Holland, the best gift of all; for what were our municipalities, our States and our institutions, if it were not for this UNION, which, like the attraction of the sun over the planetary bodies, also holds us in our harmonious relations?

In Holland were first uttered the words of religious liberty, as we understand it; for as early as 1596 Hooft declared that in a free State no man should be troubled or hindered on account of his religious opinions. Give to Lord Baltimore, the Pilgrim Fathers, or Roger Williams what honor you may, it was Holland that first heard the noble sentiment that no human authority should come between a man and his God. Nor let it be forgotten that it was, after long struggles of absolutism with dissent in politics and religion, and after the failure of Puritanism, that both civil and religious liberty were established in Great Britain, when a Dutchman, one trained in the political system of Holland, and a member of the Reformed Dutch

Church, ascended the throne. Go to that land, my friend, and tell them you come from a community which represents the virtues of their fathers; and that their children here are grateful for the legacy which has come down to them for centuries. If you find that the liberties of Holland have suffered some decrease—that the King sits where once the Stadtholder sat—that there is some deviation from her ancient toleration,—remember that Holland is but a little country among the vast populations of Europe. Her population never quite reached three millions, yet she once had five universities, and her fleets doubled that of all Europe. But surrounded by despotisms and strong governments, weakened by her departure from her system of free trade, which made her what she was, it was not possible that she should still maintain the power and dignity she once possessed. To us was granted that boundless space and diversity of soil, climate, temperament, and culture, which enables us to mature the ideas of liberty that were transplanted from Holland. But for such a large and enlarging sphere, we too might have failed. Tell them, too, that our great nation is faithful to the system we derived so largely from their original example, and faithful to the Union of our States, the more glorious repetition of their own—that, though murmurs of disaffection may be occasionally heard from extreme extravagances, the vast bulk of our people are bound together by links indissoluble—nay, that rather than live under any other system, we would die amidst its ruins.

The Rev. Dr. KENNADAY, having been called for, arose and said—

Mr. President :—The lateness of the hour would be sufficient to restrain me from indulging in any extended course of remarks, even had we not been so amply entertained by the many sentiments of high regard so eloquently expressed in farewell to our distinguished fellow-citizen. Still, in obedience to your request, I will append a few remarks.

The sentiment last announced, and to which I likewise am desired to respond, expresses the hope that “*the Reformed Clergy will not despair of you, their unreformed people.*” Whatever may be the despondence to which others may yield, or whatever may be the sentence which others may pronounce, it is very certain, from the proffer of our worthy friend, Dr. Bethune, to take you under his watchful care, and from his able and eloquent address, that you are not to be executed “*without benefit of clergy.*” Allow me to say, that I fully concur in the confidence expressed by him, and am no less hopeful of your reformation. The evidence which you have this night given of a generous forgetfulness of political predilections, when the claims of private and public worth are considered, is a strong and encouraging indication that, whatever differences may agitate the public heart, such differences cannot subdue the nobler emotions of our nature. My confidence in the purity and permanency of our Government, has always

rested, in a great degree, upon my confidence in the integrity and patriotism of our public men; and this assurance is not a little strengthened when the amenities of friendship rise superior to the prejudices of party, as men of every variety of sentiment upon public questions unite in evincing their appreciation of a worthy man.

Sentiments are of most importance in their influence upon actions. It is to the deportment of men that we must look for the more effective illustration of political theories. Men who maintain their integrity in the service where the public confidence has placed them, are worthy of all commendation. Nothing can be more disastrous to public virtue than indifference to political purity. The approval of those most familiar with their character, is ever to be considered as one of the strongest incentives by which men in positions of confidence and responsibility are to be governed. It is, I conceive, in respect to these sentiments that we mingle in the farewell, yet gratulatory, expressions of the evening.

The honor which the President of the United States has conferred upon Mr. MURPHY is, as has been well remarked, an honor conferred no less upon ourselves. To-night he is surrounded by many who have found him a zealous compeer in promoting those interests which have tended to the prosperity and character of our city. The present is, in many respects, Mr. President, a time in the history of Brooklyn, when

her citizens may feel more than ordinary gratification. Besides sharing in the diplomatic honors of Government, we have given, from one of our suburban villages, a Governor to our Empire State. In addition to this, two of our fellow-citizens are at this time among the distinguished men of the globe. I allude to Captain HUDSON, and his colleague, Captain SANDS—gentlemen distinguished in our naval service, and highly esteemed as our own fellow-citizens. Their absence from us this evening is because of their sharing in the honorable work of laying the submarine telegraph cable. These gentlemen are uniting with their British compeers to give to science the more perfect dominion of the sea. The two countries, with the power of Niagara and the grasp of Agamemnon, are struggling in harmony to bind the ocean with a chain of fire. Surely, Mr. President, Brooklyn may be allowed to indulge in some little self-complacency when all the world admits that in Captain HUDSON, one of our own citizens, we have one of the greatest “*wire-pullers*” of the age. When that great achievement is effected, the rejoicings resulting therefrom would be greatly enhanced could we receive a salutation from our new Minister to Holland, greeting us in good old-fashioned, honest Dutch.

Allow me, Mr. President, to repeat my confidence in the reformatory capabilities of public men. When I see men of all parties stepping down from their narrower platforms, and coming together in all the kindly blendings of a common

brotherhood, I am encouraged to believe that we are one in the love of an unbroken country. Not that political distinctions are to be deemed unimportant, nor that men are to be indifferent to their convictions upon great public measures; but that there are interests before which party barriers should sink, and every line of separation be lost.

When Alcibiades was at the head of the Athenian government, he was, at one time, in the presence of Socrates, boasting of the magnitude of his possessions, which were mostly within the precincts of the city. Intending to moderate his vanity, the philosopher asked for a map of the world. The world, as then known, in its broad expanse, was spread before them. "Where is Achaia?" inquired Socrates. "There it is," said Alcibiades. "And where is Athens?" This, though but a diminished spot, was soon perceived. "Where, Alcibiades, are thy possessions?" They could not be found. They were lost amid the entire of Athens, included in the greatness of Achaia, and merged in the magnitude of the world.

Thus should it be with our party distinctions. In the broad and ample outlines of our noble country, the lesser outlines should fade away.

In conclusion, let me assure our honored friend, that I most heartily concur in the sentiments of respect so ardently tendered him by his numerous friends. I remember, when, in the commencement of his public career, it devolved upon him to de-

liver a Fourth of July oration before the citizens of Brooklyn, in the church of which I was pastor, it became my duty to open the ceremonies by prayer. Still shall my most devout wishes go with him, that his career may be one of continued usefulness and integrity ; and in bidding him farewell, I will say, "The Lord preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore."

"The Army and Navy—The ultimate arguments, when all other reasons fail to convince, and all other eloquent appeals are exhausted."

General AARON WARD, of Westchester County, being called upon, responded as follows :—

Mr. President:—You and the gentlemen present have my thanks for the kind manner you have been pleased to second the call upon me, to respond to the sentiment just read. In rising at this late hour of the night, my reply to it must necessarily be brief. I take unusual pleasure in stating that, in accepting the invitation of your Committee to this dinner, I feel gratified that I have thus been favored with the privilege of uniting with you on this interesting occasion, in taking leave of your honored fellow-citizen, my much valued and esteemed friend, Mr. MURPHY, who is so soon to take his departure from among us. I have long been personally and intimately acquainted with him ; we served together in the Constitutional Convention in this State in 1846, in which he took a most active and conspicuous part. Our political



sentiments have always accorded with each other, and I can truly say that, in the numerous speeches which he made in the Congress of the United States, in the Constitutional Convention of our own State, and in the other political Conventions in which we have acted together, I have never heard him speak disrespectfully, in the slightest degree, of a single political opponent. (Immense applause.) He established this creed for his own government at an early period of his political life, namely: "To exercise his elective franchise fearlessly, in his own way, and to allow others, without reproach, the same invaluable privilege." (Great applause.) This excellent trait in his character, the eminence to which he has arrived, his moral worth, his intellectual attainments, and his pure and unsullied character, have attached to him a host of ardent friends in every section of our country, who, though not here in person, are, I am sure, with us to-night, in spirit and kind wishes. (Tumultuous applause.)

In your letter of invitation tendering to him this testimonial of your respect, you pay a just tribute to his merits; and this banquet is not less honorable to yourselves, than to the patriotic gentleman who has been called to a distinguished mission. (Cheers.) Our hearts will go with him over the seas; our prayers will follow the ship that bears him away; and although his eyes may moisten with regret at parting, he will be soothed with the reflection that he leaves behind him those who love him, and those who will greet his return to

his native shores, with the same deep affection in which they will bid him "*God-speed.*" (Applause.) Those who know Mr. Murphy as I do, will have no apprehension of the success of his mission. The honor of the country is in safe hands, entrusted to his care; and that he will discharge his high official duties to the satisfaction of the country and the people, admits not of a single doubt. (Applause.)

The sentiment to which I am requested to respond, "The Army and Navy—the ultimate argument, when all others fail of convincing, and all appeals are exhausted," expresses my own feelings and the feelings of the whole American people; and I trust Mr. Murphy will present it to the Government to which he is accredited, that it may be fully understood, that it is the desire and the settled policy of this Republic to remain at peace with all the world, (great applause,) and that neither the President nor the Congress of the United States will at any time involve our country in a war with any foreign power without just cause. (Applause.) While our present enlightened Chief Magistrate and "all others in authority" will cautiously avoid giving any just cause of offence to other nations, we will never submit to any act of aggression from any other power in the world, without returning blow for blow. (Loud and reiterated applause.) It is now nearly three-quarters of a century since we achieved our independence and took our station among the nations of the earth; since then we have been, much to the regret of

our people, twice involved in war. That of 1812, with Great Britain, was in defence of free trade and sailors' rights. (Long and continued applause.) That nation, with its powerful navy, impressed our seamen on board of our merchant vessels on the high seas, and committed other acts of violence against the commerce of our country, which drove us to the necessity of a declaration of war against her. The other war was with Mexico, which was brought about by reason of that Government's undertaking to wrest, with an armed force, a portion of our territory from us, and that, too, without any previous declaration of hostilities.

Thanks, however, to an overruling Providence, in both instances, peace was restored by honorable treaty stipulations; and it is a source of gratification to know, that our gallant Army and Navy nobly discharged their whole duty in both struggles. There is no man that hears me that does not only remember, but glory in, the services of our Army and Navy in these memorable wars; there is not a true-hearted, whole-souled American living, who will not join me in saying that they were such as to merit the eternal gratitude of the people, and to add to our national fame both at home and abroad. (Loud cheering, and long continued.) The names of Scott, Taylor, Wool and Worth, who served in both wars, with Jackson, Brown, Hull, Decatur, Perry, Mac Donough, Bainbridge, Porter, Lawrence, Morris, and a host of other army and naval officers who served in the war of 1812, have

furnished materials for glorious pages in the history of our country. Winfield Scott, who has been deservedly promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-General for his brilliant successes in these wars, is still at the head of our Army, and is, beyond all doubt, the greatest Captain of the age. His enemies have said this, and his friends may be proud to reiterate it. (Enthusiastic applause.)

But while it is, as I have said, the earnest desire of the Government to remain at peace with all the world, it is the part of sound wisdom to be at all times prepared for war, as the best means of preserving peace. No nation can be safe from insult or injury that is unable to resist them. To be unprepared for war is the surest way to provoke it. Weakness often invites insult. The arts of peace, which enrich and embellish nations, are incapable of defending them; and wealth, without the power of protecting it, is ever the prey of violence.

We must, therefore, encourage military habits, military skill, and a military spirit among our people. But it is not necessary that we should maintain, at all times, a large standing army to eat out the substance of the people; all that is required, in order to keep alive this military spirit, is our present Army, organized, as it is, with the West Point Institution forming a component part. That Institution now supplies our Army with a class of highly-educated and scientific officers, who will compare favorably with any similar body of men in the world. (Loud applause.) While our Gov-

ernment continues to maintain an efficient army to fortify our coast and frontiers; to construct military roads where necessary; to continue the organization of the militia force, which now numbers between two and three millions of men, fully armed and equipped, and ready for any service; and, above all, to continue the gradual and steady increase of our Navy, the increase of which should never be lost sight of, so long as other nations keep up a large navy, and so long as our commerce extends to every part of the globe, which requires protection, peace may be preserved. (Great applause.)

But to ensure that blessing, as our territory extends from ocean to ocean, it is necessary, in my opinion, to construct a railroad to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific seas. It is a gigantic undertaking, I grant, but it is one that is calculated to advance the prosperity and happiness of our people far beyond any other measure of the present day; it is one of the few great works which the Government of the United States may undertake without any fear of encroaching upon the provisions of the Constitution, for military roads are as necessary as a means of defence as fortifications on our seaboard or inland frontier. The framers of the Constitution foresaw the necessity, not only of authorizing Congress to provide for the common defence, but to establish post-offices and post-roads; and consequently, under certain circumstances, Congress may appropriate funds for their construction. This road, when

finished, will be the great military road of the country, and will enable the Government, within six days' time, to transport an army from the Atlantic side to aid our brethren in the golden region to repel any threatened attacks which may be made upon them. Such a military road, with our army, navy, and militia forces, would enable our Government, as it is our earnest desire, to maintain peace with all nations. (Great applause.)

With these imperfect and hurried remarks, I thank you, gentlemen, for your patience; and, wishing our guest a flowing sail, a smooth stream, a clear sky, and a safe arrival, I take my seat.

(The speaker resumed his seat amid deafening cheers.)

The next toast was—

“The Press,”—

To which Mr. SWACKHAMER, being called upon, made the following response :—

Mr. President :—While I appreciate the compliment of being called on to respond to the sentiment just read, permit me to inquire whether this honorable distinction should not have been conferred on some other or older member of the press. Having no voice, however, in this matter, I propose to advert to the early struggles of the press

in this country, and trace its rise and progress from infancy to manhood,—from the period while yet weak, it defied despotism, until the present time, when, in its strength, it guides the destinies of a free and powerful nation. Much has been said during the evening of the patriotism of the State of New York, and of the heroic achievements of a race—the German—from whom I am a descendant. However just this may be, it is none the less true, that other people and other colonies are entitled to equal credit for early devotion to sound governmental principles.

The American Press was born in the Colony of Massachusetts, although the fetters that bound it were first broken in the Colony of New York, which event Governor Morris regarded as the germ of American freedom,—the morning star of that liberty which subsequently revolutionized America.

I have said the first newspaper was established in Massachusetts:—this was at Cambridge, in the middle of the seventeenth century, and it was devoted to literary and scientific subjects. About the year 1700, three newspapers were published in Massachusetts, one in Pennsylvania; and in 1725, one was also commenced in New York,—the “New York Gazette,”—by William Bradford. For expressing certain sentiments regarded as seditious by the Government, concerning a public controversy, Bradford, and Macomb his associate, was tried before Justice Cooke, who used all his

influence to convict him ; but the jury, after remaining out over sixty hours, disagreed, and were discharged. George Keith, who wrote the article, was, however, condemned without a hearing. The second newspaper established in the New York Colony was the "New York Weekly Journal," in 1733. It opposed the administration of Governor Cosby with great vigor, and its publisher, John Peter Zenger, was harshly treated by the Governor and Council in consequence. By his order, Zenger was confined for several months, deprived of pen, ink and paper, and denied the intercourse of his friends. But the jury, after a fair hearing of the case, found a verdict of *Not guilty* of the charge of sedition. This, in connection with the acquittal of Bradford and Macomb, laid the foundation of the American Press, by the vindication and maintenance of its primary rights.

It is worthy of remark, that the freedom of the press found, at this early period, able advocates in the legal profession : among whom was Andrew Hamilton, of Philadelphia, who successfully defended Zenger, generously refusing all compensation for his laborious services.

Only a little over a hundred years have been numbered with the past, since these struggles were made by the press ; and yet, what amount of good or evil has it not accomplished within this brief period ? Or rather, what amount of good has it not secured to the mass of mankind ? For whatever of evil that may, and perhaps does, attend



the freedom of the press, is a thousand times compensated in the benefits it confers upon society.

I have referred to the two pioneers in the cause of the freedom of the press in America. In this connection it is proper to say that, at the commencement of the Revolution, only four newspapers were published in New York,—the first bearing the remarkable title of, “Rivington’s New York Gazetteer, or the Connecticut, New Jersey, Hudson’s River and Quebec Weekly Advertiser.” Whether the circulation of this paper ever reached the extent of territory indicated by its comprehensive title, is not known. The three others were, “Gaines’ Mercury,” “London’s Packet,” and “Holt’s Journal.” The two last sustained the Revolutionary cause with great energy and ability, while Rivington and Gaines defended the interests of the Royalists. Besides those specified, because of their locality, there were thirty-five other newspapers published in the American Colonies at the beginning of the Revolution, all of which were very limited in their scope and size, averaging only about half a page of foolscap. None of these attained more than a weekly issue, until the close of the Revolution, when they rapidly increased in numbers and daily issues, amounting, in the year 1810, to three hundred and sixty, and at this day to as many thousands as then hundreds; and it is said that one New York journal circulates more copies daily than the entire Colonial press did weekly during the Revolutionary struggle, and, indeed, for some time subsequent to its determination.

It is a common practice for those who, on occasions like the present, are called upon to speak of the press, to eulogize it in extravagant and unmeasured terms. But this is no part of my purpose; on the contrary, I can discern many abuses growing up in the conduct of the press, that need reform. It is a matter of astonishment to notice the course pursued at times by the leading newspapers of this country and of Europe on subjects of National policy; but being mainly correct on the great interests of man, no exceptions can justly be taken on this head. There is, however, another feature in the newspaper business of the day, against which I conceive there are serious objections. This consists in the constant efforts of a portion of the press, generally known as the "Sensation" press, to create or augment excitement in the public mind, and often at the expense of justice, truth, and good morals.

The virulence and abuse, personal and political, that characterizes the party press,—especially of America and England,—derogatory to the character of the institution itself as it is baneful to society, is not, in my opinion, half so prejudicial as the other practice to which reference has been made. The publication in detail, and in exaggerated colors, of criminal conduct and of the proceedings in criminal courts; the disposition to incite disorderly conduct; to influence the passions of the populace; to augment the multifarious difficulties incident to popular forms of government, is in the highest degree reprehensible and dangerous, and should be

reprobated by every honorable member of the press. Obviate this impediment to its success, and the Press at once stands forth the champion of human rights and of National virtue; reflecting, like the rays of a cloudless autumnal sun, its genial warmth upon mankind. It has already achieved much for the human race. Whenever and wherever the sons of toil have raised their voices in the cause of Freedom, there the Press has taken up and echoed their declarations in tones as astounding to the ear of despotism, as it invariably has been encouraging to the hearts of the oppressed. It has condemned ignorance, promoted education, art and science. With all its errors, it is yet the beacon light of truth and liberty. Though trammelled by infirmities, it is the base and bulwark of the civilized world. Without it, all would be mist and darkness;—with it, the day-star of religion and civilization is penetrating the darkest recesses of barbarism; and through it, Democracy will yet envelop within its far-reaching panoply, and protect inviolate, the rights of every people against all forms of oppression, emanating either from the devices of tyranny or the bondage of superstition,—hitherto the prolific source of the misery and destitution that has borne down and consigned to lasting oblivion so many millions of mankind.

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The company separated between one and two o'clock, A. M., after having spent an evening characterized by manifestations of pleasure and good fellowship, and by mutual expressions of kindly feeling.



# APPENDIX.



## A P P E N D I X .

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BEDFORD SPRINGS, PENN., 1st August, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I have received your kind invitation to be present "at a dinner to be given to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, by his friends, at the Mansion House," on the 5th inst., "prior to his departure on his Mission to Holland." I regret that it is impossible for me to accept it : because I entertain a warm regard for Mr. Murphy, and should rejoice to meet the friends who propose to do him honor.

With my grateful thanks,

I remain yours, very respectfully,

JAMES BUCHANAN.

MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, ED. DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD, TUNIS G. BERGEN, COMMITTEE.

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WASHINGTON CITY, July 27, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I thank you for the invitation to attend the dinner proposed to be given to Mr. MURPHY, prior to his departure on his Mission to Holland, and I should accept it with pleasure were I not prevented by public business.

I am gratified at this mark of esteem and regard shown by his friends who best know him, to an able and patriotic citizen about to leave his country on such a service. It is a tribute which has been ably earned, and is well bestowed.

I am, gentlemen, respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS CASS.

TO N. B. MORSE, ED. W. FISKE, JAS. HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD, AND TUNIS G. BERGEN, ESQs., COMMITTEE.

WASHINGTON CITY, July 31, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I regret to say that it will not be in my power to be present at the proposed dinner to your worthy fellow citizen, Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY. It was my good fortune to be associated with Mr. Murphy in my early Congressional life, and then learned to appreciate his talents, and admire the many sterling qualities of his character. In him the people of his district always found an able and efficient representative, and the country at large a wise and patriotic legislator. He is now called by his Government to a new field of action, and in the success of his past life we have the most satisfactory assurance that his future career will be equally successful and honorable.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HOWELL COBB.

TO N. B. MORSE, ED. W. FISKE, JAS. HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD, AND TUNIS G. BERGEN, COMMITTEE.

ALBANY, Aug. 3, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

Yours of the 23d ult., I found at my home at Balston Spa, last evening, on my weekly visit there.

I regret extremely that the absence of my Deputy confines me to the duties of my office, without the cessation of a single day; as it would afford me great pleasure to meet the friends of the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, as well as yourselves, upon the occasion referred to in your note, particularly so from the estimation formed of the character and abilities of the gentleman, in whose honor the dinner of the 5th is given, during the sitting of the Constitutional Convention of 1846, of which he, as well as myself, was a member.

Please convey to him my regrets at not being able to attend on the 5th to brighten the chain of our friendship, and express my wishes for his success in the responsible, honorable and important position which he is soon to occupy. Accept for yourselves my regards for your attention, and believe me,

Yours, truly,

JAMES M. COOK.

TO N. B. MORSE AND E. W. FISKE, ESQS.



WASHINGTON, Aug. 3d, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I have the honor to acknowledge your invitation to be present at the dinner to be given to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, at the Mansion House, in Brooklyn, on the 5th of the present month.

It would give me great pleasure to participate in this testimonial of regard to the new Minister to Holland, by uniting with his friends on the occasion, but, I regret to say my engagements will not permit.

I am, gentlemen, with much respect, your obedient servant,

ISAAC TOUCEY.

MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, EDWARD W. FISKE, AND OTHERS, COMMITTEE.

BINGHAMPTON, August 3, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

It would afford me great satisfaction to participate in the festive honors proposed to be extended to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, on the 5th, pursuant to your kind invitation, but professional engagements of long standing will prevent. The occasion is appropriately chosen, and the compliment worthily bestowed. I have long known Mr. Murphy and whether in social life, pursuing the duties of his profession, or representing his district in the councils of his nation, he has discharged his duties in a manner becoming the cultivated gentleman, the sound lawyer and the upright and able statesman. In his selection to represent the country abroad, the President has conferred honor upon the government and people, as well as upon the incumbent, and the most gratifying results may be anticipated from a mission so replete with elements of fitness. Begging you to present for me the annexed sentence,

I have the honor to be, sincerely, yours,

D. S. DICKINSON.

TO MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, J. HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS,  
JOHN GREENWOOD, TUNIS G. BERGEN, ESQs., COMMITTEE.

"OUR FOREIGN AMBASSADORS—May they in all cases be true representatives of the government of the United States, and in the discharge of their personal and political relations elevate the country which has elevated them."

ALBANY, July 29, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I regret that my engagements for the month of August will prevent my acceptance of your invitation to be present at the dinner to be given to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, by his friends, on the 5th of August next, prior to his Mission to Holland. I regret it the more as it would have afforded me the opportunity of adding the tribute of my respect for the character and qualifications of Mr. Murphy, whose love of letters, combined with the knowledge of our own, and the principles of public law, eminently fit him to represent his country at a foreign Court.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN A. KING.

TO HONS. N. B. MORSE, ED. W. FISKE, JAS. HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS  
JOHN GREENWOOD, AND TUNIS G. BERGEN, COMMITTEE.

LOCKPORT, July 29, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I have received your letter inviting me to attend the dinner to be given to the Honorable HENRY C. MURPHY, prior to his departure on his Mission to Holland, I regret that my engagements will not permit me to accept the invitation. It would afford me no ordinary pleasure to unite with you in this appropriate compliment to a gentleman possessing so just a title to public confidence and regard.

It was my good fortune to be associated with Mr. Murphy for some years in the public councils, and while we differed in opinion on many political questions, his patriotism, ability and manly spirit inspired me with high respect for his character. My best wishes will attend him on his Mission to the Dutch Court. He is peculiarly qualified to strengthen the friendly ties between the United States and Holland, resulting from cherished historical recollections. It is gratifying to me to know that we are to be represented there by one whose learning, accomplishments and elevated views will reflect honor upon our national reputation.

With great regard, your obedient servant,

WASHINGTON HUNT.

N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, J. HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN  
GREENWOOD, TUNIS G. BERGEN, ESQs., COMMITTEE.

ALBANY, July 31, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I am in receipt of your letter inviting me to a dinner, which the friends of the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY are to give that estimable citizen before his departure on his Diplomatic Mission.

Entertaining a high sense of Mr. Murphy's public worth and personal virtues, it would afford me extreme pleasure to unite with his fellow citizens in this very appropriate manifestation of their regard for a gentleman who has, in his professional, political, personal and social relations, exerted a healthful and benign influence upon the prosperity and happiness of your comparatively youthful, but great and beautiful City. But a previous engagement will deprive me of all this enjoyment.

Very respectfully and truly yours,

THURLOW WEED.

TO MESSRS. MORSE, FISKE, HUMPHREY, SMITH, DRIGGS, GREENWOOD, AND BERGEN.

Allow me to submit, if a fitting occasion offers, the following sentiment :

THE Hon HENRY C. MURPHY—In his home-life and character, the country has a sure guaranty for the wisdom and fidelity that will distinguish his official career abroad.

OSWEGO, July 30, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I am at this place on a professional engagement, which will probably occupy me most of next week, and will therefore prevent the acceptance of your kind invitation to a complimentary dinner to be given to Hon. Mr. MURPHY, on the 5th of August. I thank you, gentlemen, for the honor of the invitation, and should be most happy to accept, and thus have an opportunity to meet Mr. Murphy and his Brooklyn friends and testify to him personally my respect for his character, and my gratification at his selection for the important trust confided to him. But it seems probable now that the circumstances to which I have referred will render it impracticable for me to be at Brooklyn on the 5th, and I am compelled, reluctantly, to decline the invitation.

I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your obd't serv't,

SAM. BEARDSLEY.

MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS,  
JOHN GREENWOOD, TUNIS G. BERGEN, COMMITTEE.

NEW YORK, July 31st, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I am honored by your invitation to attend the banquet to be given by the friends of the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, on the 5th August, and regret that a prior engagement out of the city will deprive me of the gratification of sharing personally in this deserved tribute to distinguished personal and public worth.

Able and qualified as have been the representatives of our government at the Court of the Netherlands, we know with what confidence we may look, in the appointment of our eminent fellow citizen, for a renewed exhibition of these qualities. We know also how fully the results of his Mission will confirm the wisdom of President Buchanan's selection from this State, and with what ample fidelity and patriotism the interests and honor of the country will be maintained.

If a feeling of regret can be allowed to mingle with such an occasion as this, we may indulge it in the reflection that we are soon to be deprived of the personal association of one whom we have been long led to regard as identified with our social happiness and the public well-being, and who will carry with him our best wishes and expectations.

Permit me to offer a sentiment for the dinner, and to subscribe myself,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD CROSWELL.

TO N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD, AND TUNIS G. BERGEN, COMMITTEE.

THE AMBASSADORIAL CHARACTER OF A COUNTRY.—Best illustrated by its best talent and its highest personal worth—characteristics which we recognize in the American Minister to the Hague.

NEW YORK, July 27, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I have your invitation to the dinner to be given to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, prior to his departure on the Mission to Holland, and regret that the necessity of leaving the city before the appointed day will deprive me of the pleasure of being present.

I am, very respectfully and truly yours,

GREENE C. BRONSON.

MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD, TUNIS G. BERGEN, COMMITTEE.

HUNTINGTON, 29th July, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

It would afford me very great pleasure to be with you at the complimentary dinner to our friend, the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, prior to his departure for the Hague; but I regret that I shall be deprived of that pleasure by an indispensable engagement.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

C. C. CAMBRELING.

MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS,  
JOHN GREENWOOD, TUNIS G. BERGEN, Committee.

NEW YORK, July 28, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I am in receipt of your note of the 23d inst., inviting me to a dinner to be given to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, on the 5th of August. I regret exceedingly that engagements out of the city will prevent my being present on the occasion. I regard the compliment which you intend paying Mr. Murphy as a most deserving one. The Administration has done itself honor in his appointment as Minister to the Court of Holland, and nothing can be more fitting than that his friends and townsmen should tender him, on his departure, their best wishes at the time and in the manner proposed.

Very truly yours,

HENRY NICOLL.

MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN  
GREENWOOD, TUNIS G. BERGEN, Committee.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Aug. 3, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

Contrary to my expectations, and much to my regret, I find it will be impossible for me to be present at the dinner to be given to the Honorable Mr. MURPHY, on the 5th instant, prior to his departure on his Mission to Holland. It is a fitting compliment to a distinguished citizen.

Hoping that nothing may occur to mar the joyousness of the occasion, and that the future of Mr. Murphy may be as brilliant and successful as his political course hitherto has been consistent and honorable,

I remain, with much consideration and respect,

Your most obedient servant,

HENRY M. ROGERS.

Hon. N. B. MORSE and others, Committee, &c.

OYSTER BAY, August 3, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to a dinner to be given to Mr. MURPHY, on the 5th instant, on the occasion of his departure to Holland. The public compliment which you thus purpose to pay to your distinguished fellow citizen, is one which he is well entitled to receive; and from my long acquaintance with him, and the friendly relations which have always existed between us, I could wish it were in my power to unite with you in showing him this mark of respect, but I have made it a rule of late years to abstain entirely from any participation in such festive occasions. I must, therefore, beg you to excuse my non-attendance.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

W. C. MCCOUN.

TO MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, E. DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD and TUNIS G. BERGEN, Committee.

NEW YORK, July 30, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I regret that a previous engagement will deprive me of the pleasure of attending the proposed dinner to Mr. MURPHY, on the 5th prox. It is gratifying to see the friends of Mr. Murphy, without distinction of party, availing themselves of the occasion of his approaching departure on a foreign Mission, to testify their high sense of his public and private worth. In the various important offices he has filled, his intelligence, ability and courtesy have been conspicuous; and I do not doubt he will bring to the new sphere of service assigned to him by the General Government the same valuable qualities; add to these a gentlemanlike bearing, which has won him so many friends, and an unusual amount of information, not only of the country he is to represent, but of that to which he accredited; and I think even those who, like myself, regard Holland as their fatherland, and are thus interested in both countries, will have every reason to be satisfied with the American Representative at the Hague. Wishing you all manner of enjoyment,

I am very truly yours,

J. VAN BUREN.

MESSRS. MORSE, FISKE and others, Committee.

SOUTH OYSTER BAY, Aug. 1, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I beg to acknowledge, with many thanks for your kind remembrance of me, the receipt of a very polite invitation from you to attend at a dinner to be given by his friends to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, on the 5th inst. I have delayed answering your letter, in the hope of being able to accept the invitation; but circumstances, I fear, will render it impossible for me to do so. I deeply regret this, for I should have derived much gratification from being present on an occasion designed to do honor to one of your distinguished townsmen, whose public spirit, intelligence and worth have made him so deservedly popular with all classes of his fellow citizens, and for whom no one can entertain a higher personal regard than

Your friend and servant,

D. R. FLOYD JONES.

TO HON. N. B. MORSE, ED. W. FISKE, JAS. HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD, and TUNIS G. BERGEN, Committee.

PLATTSBURGH, Aug. 3, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I regret that business in another direction prevents me from accepting your invitation to dinner, given in honor of our learned and estimable friend. As I cannot be with you, please accept the following in place of part of what I would be glad to say if present:—

HON. HENRY C. MURPHY—When intercourse with foreign nations is entrusted to capable men like him, the country feels safe. His Mission will be prosperous; we hope it may be pleasant to him and his family, and their return sure.

Very respectfully yours,

L. STETSON.

N. B. MORSE, ED. W. FISKE, JAS. HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD and TUNIS G. BERGEN, Committee.

NEW YORK, Aug. 5, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

Your invitation to partake of a dinner, to be given to the Hon. H. C. MURPHY, at the Mansion House, this evening, is received. I thank you for your kindness, and hope to be present.

Believing the remembrance of one whose moral worth challenges the admiration of all, will not cease with the entertainment you propose to give him, and that, while absent, his friends would be pleased to retain his likeness, I beg you to accept, for each of those present, a copy prepared for my Magazine.

Respectfully yours,

C. SWACKHAMER.

TO Hon. N. B. MORSE, ED. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD and TUNIS G. BERGEN, Committee.

ALBANY, July 30, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I am much obliged for your kind invitation to the dinner to be given to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, prior to his departure for Holland; but I regret to say that my engagements are such, that I cannot be present on the day named. Please to present to Mr. Murphy my best wishes, as well for his personal welfare while abroad, as for the success of the honorable mission he has undertaken.

I remain, gentlemen, with great respect, yours very truly,

ERASTUS CORNING.

MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD and TUNIS G. BERGEN, Committee.



NEW YORK, July 31, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I have received your favor inviting me to a dinner to be given to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, prior to his departure on his Mission to Holland, and I much regret that I am unable to be present. I have known Mr. Murphy many years; we were members of the same Congress; and I have not only a sincere respect for him as a man of talent and attainments, but a great regard for him personally. Beyond the circle of his family and intimate friends, none, I am sure, can have been more gratified than myself by his appointment. It seemed to me on all accounts appropriate, and especially from his familiar acquaintance with the language of the people among whom his duties are to be discharged—always a desirable qualification in a Minister, though certainly not always to be attained.

The delicate relation in which a Minister stands to his own Government, is not often sufficiently appreciated. It is eminently of a confidential nature, and for this reason the Executive should enjoy the largest liberty of choice. With whatever eagerness or impetuosity other official posts may be sought, it seems to me that there is a peculiar indelicacy in pressing for diplomatic appointments, or even in holding them by the sufferance of a reluctant Executive. Every Administration has its own system of policy, or at least its special views, to enforce in its intercourse with foreign states, and, in carrying them out, it is entitled to the utmost freedom in the choice of its agents.

The relation in which a Minister stands to the Government to which he is accredited is scarcely less delicate. He is not only the official representative of his own Government, but he is naturally regarded as the personal exponent of his countrymen; and the latter are sure to suffer if he does not come up to the standard of respectability, in regard to character and capacity, by which public men are usually measured. These appointments deserve, therefore, to be made with a far more scrupulous care than those which are to be exercised at home. It is easy for us to distinguish between an individual and the great body of his countrymen. But, for foreigners, who do not see us in mass, it is so much more difficult to make the distinction.

Under all these aspects, Mr. Murphy's appointment is creditable to the country and the Administration; and he will carry with him my best wishes for his health, and the successful discharge of his Mission.

I am, gentlemen, truly yours,

JOHN A. DIX.

TO N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAS. HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD, and TUNIS G. BERGEN, Committee.

WASHINGTON, August 3, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to “a dinner, to be given to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, by his friends, at the Mansion House, Brooklyn, on the 5th inst., prior to his departure on his Mission to Holland;” and I cannot but express my regret, that a necessary absence from the city will deprive me of the privilege of participating with you on an occasion so interesting, and so creditable to all concerned. You will enjoy that pleasure, which, I believe, is always felt by those who are engaged in an object about which there is no diversity of opinion, and which is in itself eminently becoming and laudable.

A public dinner to a public man is no new thing in our country. On the contrary, this form of compliment has been so often indiscriminately bestowed, or with reference to ulterior objects, that its value has become proportionably impaired, as any certain criterion of public confidence and regard. But when the account of your meeting shall have been committed to the press of the cities of New York and Brooklyn, there will not be one of its myriad readers who will not admit, that there was nothing in the occasion which was unbecoming, either in you to bestow or in your guest to receive. Those who will meet with you will assemble, not merely to honor an individual, but certain principles, and a course of conduct which have commended themselves to their judgment, and in which they desire to proclaim their concurrence.

Splendid gifts of intellectual endowment, noble qualities of moral worth, large measures of practical wisdom, devoted appliances of industry, high attainments in mental and moral culture, extensive acquisitions in useful knowledge, and eminent success in any honorable profession or laudable avocation of life, when abstractly considered, challenge the admiration of all men everywhere, irrespective of any national or social distinction.

But when these excellencies are combined, embodied and exemplified in the life and character of an individual, they become invested with tenfold attraction, and men pay homage to them or to their possessor as if by instinct, or by the higher impulses of intuition. Where lives the man, who, unprejudiced by the predilections and repugnances of party strife, and unbiassed by the deeper impressions of education, feels no admiration for men of superior worth?

Such admiration is the legitimate offspring of a constitutional law of our nature—a law which results from no local cause or transient

tendency, but which extends to every nation, tribe and family throughout all time; which stands out in bold and beautiful relief upon the mind of the learned and the unlearned; which is prominent among the fundamental precepts of the philosopher and the maxim of the moralist, and which is deeply engraved upon the tablet of every human heart.

We pay even to intellectual greatness the involuntary tribute of our admiration and awe; but the homage of our love and reverence is due to it only when associated with moral worth.

For he

“ Who wickedly is wise, or madly brave,  
Is but the more a fool, the more a knave.”

While he

“ Who noble ends by noble means obtains,  
Or failing, smiles in exile or in chains,  
Like good Aurelius, let him reign or bleed,  
Like Socrates, that man is great indeed.”

The observance of this great principle is the only right road to eminence and honor. There may be instances of temporary advancement, through some adventitious circumstances, without such real merit. The means of individual promotion may sometimes be found in personal favoritism, interest or intrigue; and they may secure to the aspirant, for a short time, some degree of fame, without any intrinsic excellence of character and conduct. But unmerited fame, like ill-gotten gain, seldom survives the occasion which gave it birth. Not so with the destiny of one who rises by the reflex influences of his own excellence. His course is determined by the elements of his being; it is certain as the circuit of the sun.

It is in obedience to this great principle of our common humanity that you will meet on the occasion proposed, to pay your respects to our honorable and honored fellow citizen. He has long stood forth before your community as the architect of his own fortune, having advanced by his own efforts from the ignorance of childhood to the varied accomplishments of a liberal education in the arts and sciences, the useful and ornamental, the practical and the tasteful; having attained an honorable standing in the highest rank of one of the most difficult professions; having been successively chosen by his fellow citizens over worthy competitors to the chief magistracy of your city and the Congress of the United States, with various other offices of trust and responsibility; having risen by the fruits of his own honest industry to affluence;

having, in all these places and circumstances, acquitted himself with distinguished success and high honor, and being now selected, out of all the public men in these United States by the Chief Magistrate of the Nation, to fill one of the most honorable posts among the foreign ministers of this Republic—this man deserves well of his country, and merits the respect of his fellow citizens, who are themselves highly honored by the distinguished honors conferred on him. In him we have the embodiment and the exemplification of those principles, qualities and acquisitions, which so naturally challenge our admiration, and so richly deserve all the honor which it is in your power to bestow by your festive demonstration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. B. MACLAY.

TO N. B. MORSE, EDWARD W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, JOHN GREENWOOD, and TUNIS G. BERGEN, Committee.

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NEW YORK, August 3, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your invitation to unite with the friends of Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, in a dinner to be given on the 5th inst. to that gentleman, prior to his departure on his Mission to Holland.

The selection by the President of Mr. Murphy as one of the Ministers of the United States in Europe, is not only a just tribute to the talents and political integrity of Mr. Murphy, but a compliment to the State of New York, whose faithful servant in the Councils of the Union Mr. M. has proved himself.

I regret that absence from the city will prevent my joining with you in the mark of respect you propose to show to your fellow-citizen.

Returning you my sincere thanks for the invitation,

I remain, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN McKEON.

Messrs. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, E. DRIGGS.

BINGHAMTON, August 3d, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

It would afford me great pleasure to accept your invitation to be present at the dinner proposed to be given to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, our newly appointed Minister to Holland, on the 5th instant, but I find my engagements such that I am compelled to decline it.

I should feel a double gratification in meeting Mr. Murphy, with his immediate friends and neighbors, on that occasion. The high regard I entertain for him personally, is equalled only by my admiration for the Democracy of your city and county, for their unwavering fidelity to the Constitution and the Union.

Besides the pleasure of a long personal acquaintance with your distinguished townsman, so soon to engage in a new sphere of high and responsible duties abroad, it has been my fortune to be associated with him for a brief period in the public service; and I can bear witness to his superior attainments, his unyielding fidelity to Democratic principles, and his devoted patriotism. His selection by the Administration as the representative of this country at the Hague, was eminently fit and proper; evincing that clear-sighted wisdom which has ever distinguished the present Chief Magistrate of the Nation.

With the hope that the occasion may be one of unalloyed enjoyment, I have the honor to subscribe myself,

Your humble, obedient servant,

AUSBURN BIRDSALL.

To N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, and EDMUND DRIGGS,  
Committee.

CAPTAIN STRINGHAM presents his compliments to the Committee, and acknowledges the honor of their invitation to the dinner to be given to the Honorable HENRY C. MURPHY.

Captain Stringham regrets extremely that his duties compel him to pray to be excused, instead of participating in the merited compliment to our distinguished fellow-townsmen.

Captain Stringham begs leave to offer his sincere wishes that the Mission of the honorable guest may prove as agreeable to himself as it will be honorable to our country.

NAVY YARD, NEW YORK,  
Tuesday, 4th Aug., 1857. }

ALBANY, August 4th, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I greatly regret that other engagements deprive me of the pleasure of accepting your invitation to a dinner to be given to the Honorable HENRY C. MURPHY, prior to his departure on his European Mission. Apart from the genial spirit which I know will prevail there, I should be gratified in an opportunity of showing my sincere respect and regard for Mr. Murphy, both as a politician and a man.

Thanking you, gentlemen, for remembering me among his numerous and well-earned friends, I am,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. PECKHAM.

TO MESSRS. N. B. MORSE, EDWARD W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS, Committee.

GENESEO, August 3d, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

Pressing business engagements, I regret to say, will prevent my accepting your kind invitation to be present at the dinner proposed to be given to the Honorable HENRY C. MURPHY, on the 5th inst., at Brooklyn, prior to his departure to the new field of public service to which the President has assigned him.

The proffer of a public entertainment to your distinguished fellow-citizen is a well-deserved compliment, alike creditable to him and the citizens of your important city.

The newly-appointed Minister to the Netherlands is highly esteemed throughout the State for his talents and accomplishments, and for his public services and private worth; and it is peculiarly gratifying to his many personal friends in this section of the State to find that where he is best known, he is the most honored and esteemed.

With great respect, I have the honor to be

Your friend and obedient servant,

B. F. ANGEL.

TO N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH and EDMUND DRIGGS, Esqrs., Committee, &c., &c.

NEWBURGH, August 3d, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

I thank you for the invitation to the dinner to be given at the Mansion House, on the 5th instant, to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, prior to his departure on his Mission to Holland; and I beg to express my regret at my inability to be present. I should have much pleasure in uniting with his friends in Brooklyn in their contemplated mark of respect, for I have known Mr. Murphy intimately for many years. I have seen him in situations of much responsibility, requiring knowledge, learning, and more than usual ability; and I am sure as a lawyer, a legislator, a scholar, and a gentleman, he is in every way worthy of the distinction which the Government has conferred upon him.

I am, very respectfully,

Yours, &amp;c., &amp;c.,

JOHN M. BROWN.

N. B. MORSE, EDWARD W. FISKE, JAMES HUMPHREY, C. P. SMITH, EDMUND DRIGGS,  
Esquires, Committee, &c.

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AUGUST 3, 1857.

GENTLEMEN:—

Regarding the selection of our friend and fellow-citizen, the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY, for the Mission to Holland, as a compliment to my own city as well as yours—both being socially one—it would afford me great pleasure to unite with you in the tribute of respect for his virtues and talents, intended to be paid by the public banquet to be given at Brooklyn, on Wednesday next. But I regret that circumstances not under control compel my absence.

In private life and public station, it has been my good fortune to enjoy an intimate association with Mr. Murphy, and rarely have I met a gentleman so judicious in his aims, and so successful in their accomplishment. If earnest fidelity, skill in the selection of means, and persevering energy in the effective employment of them, can ensure an adequate vindication of our national honor and interests in the sphere of official action now assigned to Mr. Murphy, that result will certainly be attained.

Tendering you my grateful acknowledgments for your kind invitation,

I am, Gentlemen, with great respect, yours truly,

CH. O'CONNOR.

Hon. NATHAN B. MORSE and others, Committee.

WASHINGTON, August 4th, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

Your note of invitation to attend a public dinner, tendered to the Hon. HENRY C. MURPHY by his friends, has been received.

It would afford me great pleasure, did my engagements permit it, to join in offering to Mr. Murphy this well-deserved tribute, and give personal assurance of my best wishes for his prosperity. An acquaintance of long standing with Mr. Murphy justifies the confidence reposed in him. A man of heart as well as of intellect, shrinking from no responsibility patriotism can impose, industrious, energetic, equal to all emergencies, he goes abroad the fitting representative of our country.

But public duty denies me the indulgence of the personal gratification I should derive from accepting your polite invitation, which I am compelled to decline.

With great respect,  
Your obedient servant,

J. THOMPSON.

Messrs. N. B. MORSE, E. W. FISKE and others, Committee.

POUGHKEEPSIE, August 4, 1857.

GENTLEMEN :—

I have delayed until this late hour answering your invitation to the festival to-morrow—not knowing but that I might be able to escape from my engagements and occupations, so as to join you. But I find it will be impossible. It always affords me pleasure to meet and associate with the citizens of Brooklyn, and it would be a great satisfaction to join you in your well-deserved tribute of respect and regard for your fellow-townsmen, Mr. MURPHY. There will be, however, such troops of friends to speed him on his departure for the honorable and responsible post he goes abroad to fill, that my absence will not be noticed or felt. I must beg you and him to accept this unavoidable apology; and wishing him a prosperous voyage, a pleasant sojourn in old Holland, and a successful Mission, I pray you to believe me,

Very truly,  
Your friend and servant,

JAMES EMOTT.

Hon. N. B. MORSE and others, Committee.

















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